



7 December 2016

**SUBMISSION ON QCA INTERIM CONSULTATION PAPER ON
REGULATED ELECTRICITY PRICES 2017-18**

BACKGROUND

The Queensland Consumers' Association (the Association) is a non-profit organisation which exists to advance the interests of Queensland consumers. The Association's members work in a voluntary capacity and specialise in particular policy areas, including energy. The Association is a member of the Consumers' Federation of Australia, the peak body for Australian consumer groups and is represented on the Queensland Competition Authority's Consumer Consultative Committee and the Energy and Water Queensland Ombudsman's Advisory Council. The Association is also a member of the Queensland Council of Social Service's Essential Services Consultative Group.

The Association welcomes the opportunity to make this brief submission.

The contact person for this submission is: Ian Jarratt, email ijarratt@australiainmail.com

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Association supports QCOSS's submission.

The Association also considers that:

Retail costs

The process now may need to take account of the diversity since 1 July 2016 in retailer standing and other offers, especially differences in the daily charge relative to the kWh charge. These differences may mean that the calculation of the average used in 2015-16 needs to be changed.

Other issues

Calculation of differentials between SEQ standing offers and market contracts should take account of the extent to which any, or all, standing offers may be above the efficient cost of supply.