

Why is the QCA setting prices for metering?

The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, the Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP, has delegated to the QCA the task of setting regional electricity prices (notified prices). As legislation has changed, the QCA must now set metering charges as part of notified prices.

Are these new charges?

Metering charges **are not new** —retailers already pass them through to customers. The difference is that these charges will become part of notified prices.

Metering is changing

The Council of Australian Governments has agreed on a reform package called the Power of Choice. Under these reforms, all new and replacement meters must be advanced digital meters, commonly referred to as ‘smart meters’. Eventually, all residential and small business customers will be supplied through these meters.

What is an ‘advanced digital meter’? What type of meter do I have?

Most regional customers are supplied through what is called an accumulation (or ‘type 6’) meter. This is a simple type of meter, which records the amount of electricity used over time. Early accumulation meters had clockwork dials, while more modern meters have a digital readout.

Typical accumulation meters



Advanced digital meters (smart meters), record electricity usage, and in some cases demand, every 30 minutes. They also have communication capability allowing meters to be read remotely, as well as to be reconfigured, disconnected and reconnected remotely.

Advanced digital meters are far more sophisticated than traditional accumulation meters, and are therefore more expensive to buy and operate.

Typical advanced digital meters



The Power of Choice reforms have made these meters compulsory for all customers who obtain new or replacement meters. Customers have the right to choose a meter without the remote communications function, but if they do so, they need to pay additional fees for manual meter reading.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.aemc.gov.au/Rule-Changes/Expanding-competition-in-metering-and-related-serv>

How much will I have to pay for metering?

The QCA has produced draft charges for metering. The GST exclusive charges for the most common tariffs are in the table below:

Tariff(s)	Accumulation meter charge c/day/meter	Advanced digital meter charge* c/day/meter
Tariff 11, 20	9.481	27.590
Tariff 11, 20 with tariff 31 or 33	12.325	30.749

*An additional charge of 16.022 c/day applies if the meter does not have remote communication.

The final charges will be published in our final determination in May 2018.

Where can I find more information or make a submission?

You can find out more information and/or make a submission on our website: www.qca.org.au