## Regulated retail electricity prices for 2021–22

### Draft determination - Virtual workshop 7 April 2021



The QCA's official spokesperson is Professor Flavio Menezes. Any information provided by QCA staff is done so in good faith that they will not be publicly quoted. If you are seeking public comment, you must contact the QCA on 07 3222 0555.

## Queensland Competition Authority Today's workshop

#### What is the purpose of this workshop?

- To highlight the key components of our draft decision and help stakeholders to provide submissions.
- We will consider stakeholder submissions when making our final determination.

#### Workshop structure

The workshop will be split into 3 sections:

- 1. Questions on notice
- 2. Staff presentation key issues relevant to electricity prices this year and outlined in our draft determination
- 3. Question and answer session



# QueenslandCompetitionAuthority1. Questions on notice and housekeeping

- We want to hear from you now please tell us your burning issues or questions
- Your questions will be taken on notice and addressed in the Q&A session (at the end of the workshop)
- Questions during the presentation (if raised) will also be taken on notice and addressed in the Q&A session (if time permits)



Participants joining us via Zoom over the internet can use the "Raise Hand" function when they want to ask a question



Participants joining us by phone will also be invited to ask questions



Please wait until we call your name before starting to talk

## Queensland<br/>Competition<br/>Authority2. Staff presentation

#### Items covered today

#### 2A. Customer bill impacts

- Small customer bill impacts
- Large customer bill impacts

2B. Overarching framework

- Key factors impacting how we set electricity prices
- Introducing new tariffs
- Reviewing the terms and conditions for accessing tariffs

2C. Individual cost components

- Key cost components for setting electricity prices
  - Network costs
  - Retail costs
  - Energy costs
  - Other adjustments

# Queensland<br/>Competition<br/>Authority2A. Indicative bill impacts for small customers



## 2A. Indicative bill impacts for large customers



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## 2B. Overarching framework

#### What is our approach to setting notified prices?

Similar to previous determinations, the Minister asked us to consider:



## 2B. Overarching framework

#### New matters

#### Introducing new retail tariffs

- 1 based on new business network tariff
- 3 based on new transitional network tariffs

#### Important considerations for transitional tariffs

>based on AER approved network arrangements (i.e. prices and grandfathering arrangements) but not geographic limitations

- Costs and tariff structure: based on equivalent network prices (and price path)
- >Limited availability: customers on corresponding obsolete
- tariffs between 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020)
- **Expiry:** these are transitional network tariffs and expiry TBC in future determination

#### Review the terms and conditions in the gazette

 Consider making it as standalone as possible

#### Various matters, including:

- service provider discretions
- network requirements
- high voltage rebate

## 2C. Cost build-up components

#### What makes up an electricity bill?



#### **Retail costs**

These include costs for customer services like call centres and administrative tasks (e.g. sending bills).



#### **Energy costs**

These include costs to buy electricity from the wholesale market. It also includes the costs to comply with 'green schemes' such as the Renewable Energy Target.

#### **Network costs**

These include costs to transport electricity via the electricity network. It also includes other costs such as the solar bonus scheme.

#### **Other adjustments**

These adjustments include matters that we are required to consider under our legal framework.

#### Costs by individual cost element in a typical annual customer bill in 2020–21



## **Retail costs**

#### **Small customers**

- Updated retail cost allowances using recent market data
- Based on costs in SEQ

#### Large customers

 Maintaining existing retail cost allowances adjusted for inflation

- We updated **retail cost allowances** based on recent market information
- using a similar approach as that used previously i.e. a benchmarking approach
- ACIL Allen has assisted our assessment and estimated new retail cost allowances using:
  - average of total bills using SEQ market offers
  - deducting network and energy costs (from the bills)
  - residual as the retail cost component.
- We are maintaining our current approach, using established benchmark (from 2016-17) adjusted for inflation



- ACIL Allen assessed recent market information but we could not use this to update retail cost allowances due to:
  - limited number of data points
  - variability of data provided
  - reliability issues associated with self-reported data.

Retail costs are forecast to decrease for the typical customer.

## Energy costs

#### **Small customers**

 Based on energy costs for SEQ (Energex area)

#### Large customers

 Based on energy costs for the lowestcost region in the Ergon area

- Used same approach as previous years i.e. energy cost forecasts by ACIL Allen, using a market hedging approach
- We used the latest market data up until February 2021 (to account for the most current developments while meeting our draft determination timeframe)
- Energy costs are expected to decrease for both small and large customers. This reflects the expected entry of a large amount of renewable generation and lower domestic gas prices
- Consistent with our normal practice, energy cost estimates will be updated in the final determination. To the extent that market information has changed (including due to covid-19), the updated estimates will reflect this

## Network costs

## For existing retail tariffs with underlying network tariffs

- for small customers based on costs in SEQ (Energex area)
- for large customers based on costs for the lowest-cost region in the Ergon area (i.e. east zone, transmission region one)

## For existing retail tariffs with no underlying network tariffs

 based on the 2020–21 network costs adjusted by a price indexation approach

## For new obsolete and large business tariffs

 based on costs for the lowest-cost region in the Ergon area

- Used same approach as previous years i.e. pass through of AER-approved draft network costs
- Network costs are expected to remain largely the same as last year.
- We used the best information available this is the draft network prices provided by Energy Queensland
- If possible, we will update costs in our final determination based on the network pricing approved by the AER
  - otherwise, we plan on taking the same approach as in previous determinations — that is, using the network prices submitted to the AER by Energy Queensland.

## Other costs and adjustments

#### Standing offer adjustment

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#### Large customer headroom

#### Cost pass-through mechanism

- We assessed market data and the market environment (ie. regulatory reforms)
- We have included a standing offer adjustment to 3.6 % (reduced from 5% last year).
- No DMO adjustment is required (draft notified price bills do not exceed the DMO).

 In the absence of new, compelling evidence, we do not intend to include a headroom adjustment in large customer notified prices.

- Similar to previous years, we have included costs associated with SRES
- the under-recovery of 2020–21 SRES costs are included in this year's notified prices.
- We will use updated information in our final determination

# Queensland<br/>Competition<br/>AuthorityQuestions and answers



## QueenslandCompetitionAuthorityFollow-up questions

#### A reminder



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Key dates





Submissions on our draft determination are due **23 April 2021** and can be lodged via the submissions page on our website <u>www.qca.org.au/submissions/</u>

Thank you for participating in this workshop.

Stakeholder engagement and consultation play an important role in our determination process.