



1 May 2026

**SUBMISSION ON QCA CONSULTATION PAPER ON DRAFT
DETERMINATION FOR REGULATED ELECTRICITY PRICES IN
REGIONAL QUEENSLAND 2026-27**

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 has been an active participant in QCA's consultations on regulated prices for regional Queensland for many years and welcomes the opportunity to make this brief submission on the draft determination for the 2026-27 regulated prices.

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

COMMENTS

Scope of comments

Our comments relate only to household customers.

Standing Offer Adjustment (SOA) and Default Market Offer (DMO) Adjustment

Any DMO Adjustment should be shown as a stand-alone item not in terms of a change to the SOA.

Retail costs

We note that:

- For the 2026–27 determination QCA intends to use the existing retail cost benchmarks adjusted for the anticipated increased in the CPI and with variable retailer cost allocators of 7.25% for residential customers and 18.70% for small business customers
- QCA has provided several reasons for this decision.

And, although not in line with the proposal in our submission on the consultation paper, we support the proposed approach for 2026-27.

We also note that QCA proposes to reassess this approach in future reviews, including once the recent rule changes have taken effect and their impact on market pricing can be observed.

QCA should give high priority to this reassessment and consult with stakeholders separately from the normal consultations undertaken for the annual price determination process.

We consider that a bottom up approach is preferable to benchmarking.

Solar Sharer Tariff

The introduction of such a radically new tariff needs to be accompanied, and preferably preceded, by measures designed to assist consumers to understand the new, and other tariffs, and to make well-informed decisions about the most appropriate tariff(s) for them, taking account of their individual needs and circumstances.

Therefore, the need for this should be included in the final determination.

Although not relevant to this consultation, we note also that such measures are also required for consumers in SEQ.