



13 February 2026

**SUBMISSION ON QCA INTERIM CONSULTATION PAPER ON
REGULATED ELECTRICITY PRICES 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 consultation paper 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.

Retailer costs

We strongly welcome that this review will include assessment of whether the retail cost benchmarks should be updated to ensure that they remain appropriate given current retail operating conditions.

We consider that the retail cost benchmarks should be updated because:

- It is many years since they were updated.
- There have been many significant changes in retailer operations in SEQ since the last update, including encouraging or requiring: electronic billing, payment and contact, which should have reduced retailer costs.
- Retailer costs are a significant component of the regulated prices.

We also consider that a bottom-up approach should be taken to estimating the retailer costs to be included in the 2026-27 tariffs.

EV Tariffs

Given that consumers in SEQ have access to EV tariffs, so too should consumers in regional Queensland.

Therefore, we support:

- Ergon Retail being allowed to submit proposals for such tariffs for consideration by QCA.
- Further consultation by QCA with stakeholders on the proposals.

Solar Sharer Tariff

If in due course consumers in SEQ have access to this type of tariff, so too should consumers in regional Queensland.

However, there appears to be considerable uncertainty about when solar sharer tariffs will be offered to consumers in SEQ.

Therefore, we consider that QCA should:

- Include a solar sharer tariff in its draft determination.
- Subject to stakeholder feedback and developments in SEQ decide later whether to include such a tariff in its final determination.