

# AUSTRALIAN ENERGY MARKET COMMISSION CONSUMER PROTECTION ACTION PLAN

This package of new rules and reviews will help deliver more affordable energy by giving consumers more control over their energy bills.

**Final: NOV 2017**

**Advance warnings to shop around before energy discounts finish** - Energy retailers must notify their electricity and gas customers when benefits in their contract, such as a discount, are about to end or change. Started 1 February 2018.

**Final: MAY 2018**

**Stopping energy discounting that can leave consumers worse off**  
Preventing retailers from applying discounts to electricity and gas rates in market contracts that are higher than the retailer's equivalent standing offer. Rule starts 1 July 2018.

**Draft: JUL 2018**

**Advance notice of price increases**  
Requiring retailers to give customers advance notice of any price increases on their energy bills as well as information about how to shop around for a better deal.

**Draft: AUG 2018**

**Allowing self-meter reads to improve the accuracy of energy bills**  
Reducing the risk of consumers being exposed to the financial shock of an inaccurately estimated bill by allowing consumers to have their electricity or gas bill based on their own reading of the meter.

**Draft: SEP 2018**

**Strengthening protections for vulnerable customers**

New obligations on retailers to implement effective hardship policies to help customers who are having difficulty paying their energy bills.

**Draft: SEP 2018**

**Introducing maximum timeframes for meter installations**

Requiring retailers to provide customers with new electricity meters within a defined timeframe. Customers typically need a new 'smart' meter when they install solar panels or when their old meter needs replacing.

**Final report: JUN 2018**

**Retail competition review**

Annual review with recommendations to improve customer outcomes in retail energy markets. Includes analysis of solar opportunities, hardship schemes and how to raise customer awareness of options to manage energy bills.

**Final report: JUN 2018**

**Electricity networks economic regulatory frameworks review**

Annual review that explores options for the grid of the future including improved integration of consumers' solar, batteries and other distributed energy resources.

Update 15 June 2018

