



## Media Release

**For immediate release – Thursday, April 23 2026**

### **ECA welcomes draft determination on consumer-focused network planning**

Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) welcomes today's release of the [Australian Energy Market Commission's \(AEMC\) draft determination](#) aimed at improving distribution planning in the National Electricity Rules.

The *Enhancing Distribution Network Planning and Reporting* draft determination responds to ECA's rule change request, which highlighted inefficiencies in the current electricity distribution network planning rules. It is an important step in modernising distribution networks and ensuring consumers can make more informed and efficient investments in Consumer Energy Resources.

The rule change request included requiring Australia's distribution networks to prepare for expected increases in the two-way flow of power from homes and businesses to the network, electrification of homes and for an increase in electric appliances replacing gas appliances, by adapting their planning and data collection processes.

"We are pleased the AEMC has adopted several of our recommendations to improve transparency and long-term planning, as this will contribute to making our power system more efficient, reducing costs and improving value for all consumers" ECA Acting CEO Brian Spak said. "Helping consumers and networks make informed decisions about solar, batteries and EVs is critical, especially at a time when uptake and adoption is increasing.

"Getting this right is critical as electricity distribution costs, such as poles and wires, often make up the largest portion of an electricity bill. Building efficient energy networks will lower power bills for all households and small business.

"Distribution network planning must change to better prepare for future challenges and keep pace with the consumer-driven energy transition. A more efficient, affordable and resilient distribution network will be more fully aligned with consumers' needs and help ensure that consumers don't pay one cent more for their electricity than they have to.

"We commend the AEMC for their consultation and alignment with our proposed rule change. We welcome the opportunity for further consultation ahead of the final determination."

**For interview requests or more information, contact Stuart Turner on 0415 403 208 or email [media@energyconsumersaustralia.com.au](mailto:media@energyconsumersaustralia.com.au)**

**For background information:** The rule change request included requiring Australia's distribution networks to prepare for expected increases in the two-way flow of power from homes and businesses to the network, electrification of homes and for an increase in electric appliances replacing gas appliances, by adapting their planning and data collection processes. [Click here to view the information page on the ECA website.](#)

#### **About Energy Consumers Australia**

[Energy Consumers Australia](#) is the independent, national voice for residential and small business energy consumers. We enable residential and small business energy consumers to have their voices heard.