

Media Release

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Finkel Review provides the framework for affordable energy transformation

Energy Consumers Australia today welcomed the release of the final report of the *Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Energy Market* (Finkel Review).

Energy Consumers Australia CEO Rosemary Sinclair said the Finkel Panel had developed a framework to address the affordability, system security and emissions reduction challenges we are facing in an orderly, measured and coordinated way.

“The Finkel Report shows with the right settings, including a Clean Energy Target, we can keep the power on, ensure energy is affordable for households and small businesses and reduce emissions.

“What is needed now is a proactive, clear and collaborative response from the energy sector with a laser-like focus on the long-term interests of consumers.”

Ms Sinclair welcomed measures to reward households and small businesses for being flexible in the way they interact with the market, as well as information initiatives to make it easier for consumers to make decisions.

“Consumers are telling us they want a reliable supply of electricity at the lowest possible cost, but in the face of uncertainty and rising bills they are reaching for more control and choice,” Ms Sinclair said.

“Consumers are investing in solar panels, batteries and a range of the technologies, and in doing so, they are reshaping this market from the ground-up.

“The Blueprint will help ensure that consumers can make the most of the new opportunities that are emerging in the market, but also ensure that energy remains reliable and affordable for everyone.

“As we move to implement the Finkel Blueprint, we need a safety-net that works to ensure no one is left behind.”

Ms Sinclair said the focus must now turn to detailed design and implementation.

“We are particularly pleased by the recommendation that the Energy Council should report annually to COAG Leaders on progress on the strategic energy plan.”

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