



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONSUMERS SUPPORT ACCC'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAJOR CHANGES TO THE RETAIL POWER PRICING SYSTEM IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Consumers Association has strongly welcomed the ACCC's recommendations, released today, for major changes to the setting and advertising of power prices in south east Queensland.

Queensland Consumers Association spokesperson, Ian Jarratt, says the recommendations to replace deregulated standing offers prices with default prices set by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) (which will reflect the costs of efficient retailers) and to require any discounting to be off these prices, will provide a common and easily understood basis for consumers to compare all the offers available from the numerous retailers operating in south east Queensland.

Currently, many consumers incorrectly assume all standing offer prices and base prices for market offers are the same. However, each retailer sets its own prices which greatly confuses consumers, reduces price transparency and competition, and has resulted in excessively high standing offer prices.

The Association also welcomes the ACCC's associated recommendations that:

- Advertising of discounts should exclude any conditional discounts
- Conditional discounts, such as for on-time payment, should be no more than the reasonable savings to the retailer of the condition being met.

This package of recommendations on retail pricing and advertising should greatly increase the ability of consumers to make well informed choices between retailers and offers and is in line with the Association's submissions to the ACCC.

The Association is still considering the ACCC's many other recommendations.