

29 January 2018

Ms Michelle Bryne
Senior Manager Strategic Communication
Essential Services Commission
Level 37, 2 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

By email: communication@esc.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Bryne,

Submission on Draft Charter of Consultation and Regulatory Practice

Simply Energy welcomes the opportunity to provide the Essential Services Commission with feedback on its Draft Charter of Consultation and Regulatory Practice.

As a leading second-tier retailer operating in the Victorian energy market, Simply Energy views effective industry consultation as a cornerstone for making regulatory decisions that promote the long-term interests of energy consumers. In view of this, Simply Energy considers the Charter to be an important accountability measure for ensuring industry is given a voice and is able to work constructively with the Commission in promoting an efficient market for the provision of regulated utilities and related services.

Overall, Simply Energy supports the Draft Charter and the Commission's principles-based approach, but would like to take this opportunity to echo the views put forward by the Australian Energy Council. Simply Energy is strongly of the view that the Draft Charter should include further detail around the Commission's internal consultation procedures and accountability controls. Including this detail will not only provide greater procedural transparency, but will reinforce the Commission's mandate for making regulatory decisions that are independent, fair and balanced.

That being said, Simply Energy believes that the true value of the Charter derives from how it influences the Commission's stakeholder interactions and consultative practices. For this reason, Simply Energy would encourage the Commission to keep all stakeholders informed about its activities and provide industry participants with adequate time to thoroughly consider regulatory decisions that could have a material effect on the Victorian retail energy market.

Simply Energy looks forward to actively working with the Commission in further developing an efficient and effective energy retail market in Victoria. If you would like to contact me directly to discuss future industry consultation or planned engagements, please feel free to do so on (03) 8807 1171 or by email at James.Barton@simplyenergy.com.au.

Yours sincerely



James Barton
General Manager Regulation
Simply Energy