



department
of disability,
housing &
community
services.

Mr Paul Baxter
Senior Commissioner
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
GPO Box 296
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Mr Baxter

Thank you for your letter of 24 November 2009, inviting responses to the Issues Paper on the Electricity Feed-in Premium Rate Determination.

The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services is focused particularly on the impact of increases in the Feed-in premium rate on low income households, concession card holders and other vulnerable groups.

The Department recognises that the level of the tariff and the take-up rate of the scheme from the public have a flow-on effect on all households, and that this effect is proportionately more severe for low income households.

The ACT Government has concession arrangements in place to reduce the impact of increased energy prices on low income households. The Department's preference for maintaining the comparative value of the energy concession, through measures such as linking the concession cap to the transitional franchise tariff, would assist low income households, but it would also increase the cost of concessions for the Government.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Paper.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bronwen Overton-Clarke'.

Bronwen Overton-Clarke
Executive Director
Policy and Organisational Services

23.12.09

