

Dear Stakeholder

**Electricity Supply Licence Variations:
ACT GreenPower and Electricity Feed-in Schemes**

All electricity supply licences granted under the *Utilities Act 2000* (the Utilities Act) have been varied by the Commission under section 38 of the Act. The variations give effect to the ACT GreenPower Scheme and take account of requirements imposed under the Electricity Feed-in Scheme in relation to electricity supply utilities.

ACT GreenPower Scheme

On 22 January 2008, the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change, Mr Jon Stanhope MLA, directed the Commission to give effect to a GreenPower Scheme through suitable variations to the licence conditions of electricity retailers issued under the *Utilities Act 2000* no later than 1 January 2009.

In September 2008, the Commission released an information paper setting out the elements of the GreenPower Scheme accompanied by a document with proposed variations to the standard utility electricity supply licence provisions, and inviting views on the proposed variations. Copies of the information paper, the proposed variations, and the submissions received are available on the Commission's website at www.icrc.act.gov.au.

In response to the consultation, the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Mr Simon Corbell MLA, advised the Commission that he intended to delay commencement of the Scheme to 1 April 2009 to enable further examination of the proposed licence conditions.

On 27 February 2009, the Minister revoked the direction of 22 January 2008 and made a new direction to the Commission. The Utility (Electricity Retail) Licence Conditions Direction 2009 (DI2009-21) and an accompanying explanatory statement are available through the ACT Government Legislation Register at www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2009-21/notification.asp. The licences have been varied in accordance with the direction.



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The Commission understands that a Government media campaign will commence in the near future to alert potential customers of the new GreenPower Scheme and support the policy intent of the Scheme.

Electricity Feed-in Scheme

The new licence conditions also include requirements imposed under the *Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Act 2008* (the Electricity Feed-in Act) and the Electricity Feed-in Code (an industry code determined under the Utilities Act). The Electricity Feed-in Act is available on the ACT Legislation Register website at www.legislation.act.gov.au. The Electricity Feed-in Code is available at www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2009-23/default.asp.

Other Changes

A number of minor editorial amendments and formatting changes have also been made to update references to NEMMCO and the National Electricity Rules, to improve identification of the document, and to set out the content of Schedule 1 in a logical sequence.

For your information, a notice of the licence decision as required under section 52 of the Utilities Act was notified through the ACT Legislation Register on 31 March at <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2009-174/default.asp>.

The Commission appreciates the interest that utilities and other parties have taken in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Baxter', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Paul Baxter
Senior Commissioner
25 March 2009