

9 July 2008

Dr Pat Walsh
Chairperson
Essential Services Commission of South Australia
GPO Box 2605
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Pat,

Re: Proposed Amendments to the Energy Price Disclosure Code – Discussion Paper


I am responding to your invitation for comments on the Commission's discussion paper on the above matter.

We note that the Commission is proposing to enhance the Energy Price Disclosure Code (EPD Code) to include a requirement that all retailers provide a link directly from their online homepage to their price factsheets, that this information is easily identifiable by customers, and that no personal or technical information shall be required in order to obtain these fact sheets. We further note that this proposed amendment is a response to significant non-compliance with the EPD Code by the majority of retailers.

We have considered the issues outlined in your discussion paper and agree with ESCOSA that the interests of residential energy customers across the state, including older South Australians, would be best served by the introduction of these amendments and their active enforcement by ESCOSA. The amendments, assuming they are implemented by retailers, will serve to make information about products and pricing much more accessible to potential customers. The job of comparing retailers and products should therefore be more straightforward and less time consuming. COTA Seniors Voice therefore strongly supports the amendments proposed to the EPD Code.

I hope that this submission may be of assistance to you. Any enquiries in relation to the matters addressed in this submission can be directed to our Senior Policy Officer, Melinda Brindle. Melinda's email is mbrindle@cotasa.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Ian Yates AM
Chief Executive