

# Review of Queensland's energy legislation - Options Paper - Review of Queensland energy legislation, online survey

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the Review of Queensland's energy laws Options Paper, by completing this online survey.

- Stakeholders are able to save their responses in the questionnaire as they go.
- The questionnaire is a mix of closed and open-ended questions. Open-ended questions allow up to 800 words per question. Stakeholders can type or copy-and-paste text into the open-ended fields.

*For a list of all of the questions contained in the Options Paper, go to **Part 1 Table A2**.*

For guidance on submitting your feedback through the questionnaire please email [energyreview@dnrme.qld.gov.au](mailto:energyreview@dnrme.qld.gov.au)

**It is intended that all completed questionnaires will be published on the review webpage.** If you would prefer that your submission, or a part of your submission, is not published, please indicate this clearly.

Written submissions close on 31 January 2020.

## Respondent details

*R1 - I am responding to the Energy Legislation Review Stage 2 Options Paper as a company, organisation or agency*

## Individual respondent details

*Age*

*Name*

*Email address*

*Please re-enter your email address*

## Company respondent details

*Name of company, organisation or agency* Cotton Australia

*Name of the best contact person from your company, organisation or agency. For example John Robinson* Jennifer Brown

*Title of contact person* Policy Officer

*Email address of contact person* [jenniferb@cotton.org.au](mailto:jenniferb@cotton.org.au)

*Please re-enter email address* [jenniferb@cotton.org.au](mailto:jenniferb@cotton.org.au)

*Phone number of contact person* 0296695222

## Topic 1 Purpose of state energy laws i.e Objectives of the Acts

Q1.1 *Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer?* Option 3

Q1.2 *Why?*

Q1.3 *Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?*

## **Topic 2 Energy efficiency and demand management**

Q2.1 *Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer?* Option 3

Q2.2 *Why?* As there is no free text for Option 1, I am pasting comments for both Topics 1 & 2 here.

NB As Cotton Australia is a member of the Qld Farmers' Federation (QFF), please refer to the QFF submission for any responses marked 'blank' in ours.

Topic 1's Response:

Cotton Australia members predominantly reside in Qld and NSW; to continue to conduct advanced and viable farming systems they are also actively pursuing energy efficient technologies and renewable energy systems. The Clean Energy Financial Corporation loans for the purchase of such confirms agriculture's strong interest, the Qld agriculture sector is one of the largest consumers of these loans. Furthermore Queensland has set itself an ambitious state-based renewable energy target.

[2 Davis, G. Farmers Continue to Embrace Solar. Sustainability Matters. April-May 2019. Vol 12. No.3. Pp32-33 in (Ergon and Energex) Revised Regulatory Proposals and Revised Tariff Structure Statements 2020-25 (Jan2020) ]

Hence to have the state energy laws in alignment with national energy objectives is a logical step but this needs to include the ability to pursue state based priorities.

Topic 2's Response:

Conditional support of option 3. Removing duplication to ensure national uniformity is supported in principle, it reflects that Cotton Australia members conduct farming systems in one than one jurisdiction. However it should also result in a loss of energy efficiency, conservation and demand response programs and services with in Queensland. For that reason Cotton Australia is cautious about removing the demand management regulation for isolated communities until the outcome of the AEMC review of stand-alone power systems is finalised.

Q2.3 *Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?* Re suggesting improvements to these options:

As noted in our response to topic 1 members are already taking up energy efficiency, conservation and demand response programs and services. As these technologies evolve and new opportunities emerge, the Qld energy legislation needs to flexible enough to 'keep up' and allow this trend to continue.

### **Topic 3 Interaction with applied national laws**

*Q3.1 Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer? Option 1*

*Q3.2 Why? Conditional support for Option 1.*

- Scope of the definitions - While supporting the principle of alignment between state and national definitions, is there any risk that those used by the National Energy Rules have broader intent and adopting these may in turn have negative consequences?
- Timing - As the Customer Data Right (CDR) is just coming into play, it now the best time to answering this question, could it not be revisited when the CDR has been in operation for longer. Also it be may apparent there is merit in revisiting this question more frequently to ensure the right sort of useful data is gathered rather than data for data sake.
- Existing alternatives - Cotton Australia understands that the safety information is already collected in a separate activity. It was suggested during the recent Energy Legislation Review workshops there are existing measures that could collect the information, such as via compliance powers rather than creating new measures?
- Regarding the hybrid suggestion, noting QCA has an advisory role to the Minister, who in turn can use the information or choose to ignore it; if this information to be collected is QCA the best entity for the task? For instance if the data has an engineering/technical focus?

*Q3.3 Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements? As per Q3.2 response above*

### **Topic 4 Licensing**

*Q4.1.1 For generation, of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer? Option 2*

*Q4.1.2 Why? CA is of the view that whatever option is pursued it needs to manage new and emerging technologies, batteries/storage, microgrids and community owned assets. Hence Option 2 which was further 'workshopped' by Energy Legislative Review participation would be CA's preference provided (in no particular order)*

1. There are check and balances for community input in generation licences.
2. The reserve power of the Minister being able to step in, are kept.
3. Embedded networks align with national laws (Cotton Australia is concerned about loss of new generator's rights)
4. AMC embedded networks register framework is still ongoing.
5. The Qld arrangements compliment/strengthen the yet to be finalised AMEC's 3 types of SAPs ie the categories are clear and so too who is responsible.

*Q4.1.3 For generation, thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements? Please refer Qld Farmers' Federation submission for this question and all others marked "I have no interest in this topic"*

*Q4.2.1 For network businesses, of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer? Blank - I have no interest in this topic*

Q4.2.2 *Why?*

Q4.2.3 *For network businesses, thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?*

Q4.3 *FEEDBACK WANTED on electric vehicle charging stations and licensing. Stakeholder feedback is sought on the benefits, disadvantages and risks of licensing electric vehicle charging stations under the Electricity Act, or via the exemptions framework. Blank (I have no interest in providing feedback)*

Q4.4 *Please provide your feedback below*

## **Topic 5 Powers of entry and resumption**

Q5.1 *Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer? Blank - I have no interest in this topic*

Q5.2 *Why?*

Q5.3 *Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?*

Q5.4 *FEEDBACK WANTED Electric vehicles and powers of entry. Stakeholder feedback is sought on the benefits, disadvantages and risks of classifying electric vehicles connected at premises as part of an electrical installation for the purposes of entry. Blank (I have no interest in providing feedback)*

Q5.4 *Please provide your feedback below*

## **Topic 6 Technical requirements**

Q6.1 *Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer? Blank - I have no interest in this topic*

Q6.2 *Why?*

Q6.3 *Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements? Please refer Qld Farmers' Federation submission for this question and all others marked "I have no interest in this topic*

Q6.4 *FEEDBACK WANTED Electric vehicles and network connection agreements. Stakeholder feedback is sought on the advantages, disadvantages and risks of requiring electric vehicle owners to seek network approval under the Electricity Act to install an electric vehicle charger which is configured to export, or to otherwise inform the network of their purchase. Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback*

Q6.4 *Please provide your feedback below*

Q6.5 *FEEDBACK WANTED Electric vehicles and definition of electrical installation. Stakeholder feedback is sought on the advantages, disadvantages and risks of extending the definition of electrical installation to electric vehicles. Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback*

Q6.5 *Please provide your feedback below*

*Q6.6 FEEDBACK WANTED Excluded customers. Stakeholder feedback is sought on the whether any adjustment may need to be made to either the National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) or the definition of excluded customer in the Electricity Act to account for new technology (e.g. solar and batteries) or new stand-alone power systems (noting the Australian Energy Market Commission is also considering this issue). Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback*

*Q6.6 Please provide your feedback below*

*Q6.7 FEEDBACK WANTED Electric vehicles charging stations and technical regulation. Stakeholder feedback is sought on whether the framework for technical standards under the Electricity Act should apply to electric vehicle charging stations. Blank (I have no interest in providing feedback)*

*Q6.7 Please provide your feedback below*

## **Topic 7 Price control**

*Q7.1 Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer? Blank - I have no interest in this topic*

*Q7.2 Why?*

*Q7.3 Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?*

*Q7.4 FEEDBACK WANTED Electric vehicles and price control. Stakeholder views are sought on the advantages, disadvantages and risks of extending price protections to operators of commercial electric vehicle charging stations. Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback*

*Q7.4 Please provide your feedback below*

*Q7.5 FEEDBACK WANTED Retail products, services and innovation. Stakeholder views are sought on the value of building greater flexibility into retail products and services for regional customers to address new technologies, and how this could be achieved. Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback*

*Q7.5 Please provide your feedback below*

*Q7.6 FEEDBACK WANTED Electric vehicles and regional feed-in tariff. Stakeholder views are sought on the advantages, disadvantages and risks of facilitating feed-in tariff payments in regional areas for exports from electric vehicles. Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback*

*Q7.6 Please provide your feedback below*

## **Topic 8 Dispute resolution**

### **Topic 8.1 EWOQ: Embedded network customer fee options**

*Q8.1 FEEDBACK WANTED Stakeholder views are sought on embedded network customer fee options. Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback*

*Q8.1.1 What type of energy disputes are likely to arise between exempt sellers and their customers?*

Q8.1.2 *What dispute resolution mechanisms do embedded network customers currently use in order to have their energy disputes settled? Are customers aware of and successfully using existing mechanisms? Are there any issues with the current mechanisms?*

Q8.1.3 *Are there any stakeholder groups that the department should consider, and consult with, when assessing potential options for embedded network customers?*

Q8.1.4 *Is the predicted number of complaints reasonable based on the information available?*

Q8.1.5 *Do you agree with the proposal for all residential exempt sellers to be automatically deemed to be Energy and Water Ombudsman scheme participants?*

Q8.1.6 *Do you agree with the proposal NOT to require exempt sellers to pay an annual participation (membership) fee? If not, why.*

Q8.1.7 *Do you agree that the proposed fees for exempt sellers under Option 3 are fair and reasonable, and proportionate to the level of impact the issue or complaint may have on the exempt seller customer? If not please explain why.*

Q8.1.8 *Are there any other user-pays fee options the department should consider?*

Q8.1.9 *Do you see any issues with delaying the implementation of the user-pays fee scheme for at least 12 months in order to gather data to increase awareness and understanding of the Energy and Water Ombudsman services before fees are payable?*

## **Topic 8.2 EWOQ: general**

Q8.2.1 *Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer? Blank - I have no interest in this topic*

Q8.2.2 *Why?*

Q8.2.3 *Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?*

## **Topic 8.3 Dispute resolution - Regulator**

Q8.3.1 *Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer? Blank - I have no interest in this topic*

Q8.3.2 *Why?*

Q8.3.3 *Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?*

## **Topic 9 Customer protections**

Q9.1 *Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer? I do not like any of the options*

Q9.2 *Why? CA comments are made without the benefit of the Energy Legislation Review Workshop's discussion about dispute resolution and Energy and Water Ombudsman Qld activities.*

However as a matter of equity, there should be in principle shared access to concessions and

Option 2 or 3 are preferred over Option 1.

CA shares QFF view about 'vulnerable customers' and that protections for small and large business are also needed:

"customer is vulnerable when they are at risk of experiencing significant financial stress due to a moderate increase in their energy bills, due to their own personal financial circumstances. A customer's personal financial circumstances are likely to change over time, and so any individual customer may move in and out of our concept of vulnerability over their life...."

both vulnerability and hardship apply both to householders and businesses of all sizes, particularly to the farming sector where external climate pressures/events, exposure to fluctuations in the international commodity markets and the increasing variability experienced across growing-seasons all directly impact cash flow."

[Review of the National Energy Retail Legislation (Queensland) Discussion Paper, March 2019; <https://www.qff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/20190322-Submission-to-DNRME-re-NERL-review-WEB.pdf>]

*Q9.3 Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?*

*Q9.4 FEEDBACK WANTED Electric vehicles. Stakeholder feedback is sought on the advantages, disadvantages and risks of including electric vehicle customers within the definition of a customer*  
Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback

*Q9.4 Please provide your feedback below*

## **Topic 10 Emergency provisions**

*Q10.1 Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer?* Blank - I have no interest in this topic

*Q10.2 Why?*

*Q10.3 Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?*

*Q10.4 FEEDBACK WANTED Operator of last resort (OoLR) and stand-alone power systems. Stakeholder feedback is sought on the adequacy of ss. 130 and 131 to manage potential issues relating to third party stand-alone power systems, in light of Australian Energy Market Commission stand-alone power systems work.* Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback

*Q10.4 Please provide your feedback below*

*Q10.5 FEEDBACK WANTED Emergency powers. What should be the threshold for an emergency supply declaration? What should be the scope of Ministerial direction powers taking account of Ministerial direction powers in other NEM jurisdiction? Would there be an ongoing need for a restriction regulation?* Blank - I have no interest in providing feedback

*Q10.5 Please provide your feedback below*

## Topic 11 Offences and penalties

Q11.1 *Of the Options considered for this Topic, which one do you prefer?* Blank - I have no interest in this topic

Q11.2 *Why?*

Q11.3 *Thinking of your preferred Option, would you like to suggest any improvements?*

The Queensland Government is bound by the Information Privacy Act 2009.

The information you provide on this form will only be used for the purpose of informing the State Government's final position on **Energy Legislation Review Stage 2 Options Paper survey**. We will not share your name or contact details with anyone without your consent. This consultation is a public process and any comments you provide may be published online or elsewhere and may be transmitted outside of Australia. You may wish to bear this in mind when providing your comments. You are not obliged to provide comments and if you do so it is under the condition that you agree that your comments may be published including on the internet. We will not publish your name or contact details.

Your comments may be moderated according to our acceptable use policy.

Read our privacy statement for details.

## Contact details

*Contact name*

*Phone*

*Email* energyreview@dnrme.qld.gov.au

*Web address*

## Your identity

*Postcode* 4000

## Publishing your response

*Publish my response*

## Notification

*Contact details* Jennifer Brown

*Contact email* jenniferb@cotton.org.au