

Ms Clare Savage Chair Australian Energy Regulator

Dear Ms Savage,

On 25 March 2025, the Australian Government announced an extension of the Energy Bill Relief Fund (EBRF) until 31 December 2025. This extension will provide an additional \$1.8 billion for electricity bill relief to Australian households and eligible small businesses. From 1 July 2025, Australian households and eligible small businesses will receive up to a \$150 rebate. For most customers, this will be paid automatically in two quarterly instalments of \$75 on electricity bills. The EBRF will proceed on the same basis as the 2024-25 EBRF rebates.

This extension builds on the success of the 2023-24 and 2024-25 bill rebates that formed part of the Australian Government's broader Energy Price Relief Plan. Since commencing in 2023, the EBRF rebates have eased cost of living pressures felt by Australian household and businesses.

It is imperative that Australian households and eligible small business customers continue to be made aware that the Australian Government bill rebates will continue to be applied to their bills until 31 December 2025.

I note the previous decisions of the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) with respect to prior requests made from this department in relation to the inclusion of a statement on household bills to raise consumer awareness of a range of rebates and concessions available to them through Australian and state and territory programs.

On this basis, I request the AER retain the Tier 1 information outlined in the AER's 28 June 2024 decision as set out in a letter to retailers dated 1 July 2024. The statements remain consistent with the objectives and principles of the Better Bills Guideline, and importantly direct households and small businesses to a range of information to help them manage their household bills and energy use available on the Australian Government's website at www.energy.gov.au.

While the Australian Government's bill rebates conclude on 31 December 2025, there are government programs and initiatives which could continue to provide bill reduction to Australian households and small businesses.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Duggan

June 2025