

Our Ref: #31,187,811
Contact Officer: Tom Soo
Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

10 February 2026

Michael Watkins
Chairman
Body Corporate of The Waratah Main Beach CTS 16570
22 Montgomery Avenue
MAIN BEACH QLD 4217

By email: [REDACTED]
cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Michael Watkins

Variation of conditions for Body Corporate of The Waratah Main Beach CTS 16570's individual retail exemption

On 12 November 2025, we informed you of the AER's intention to vary¹ Body Corporate of The Waratah Main Beach CTS 16570's individual exemption for [The Waratah Main Beach Apartments](#), 22 Montgomery Avenue, Main Beach QLD 4217 to include new obligations relating to family violence protections and an exempt seller notification requirement.

The AER has publicly consulted on our proposed variation of Body Corporate of The Waratah Main Beach CTS 16570's individual exemption for a period of 20 business days² and no submissions were received.

As such, pursuant to the delegation given to me by the AER,³ I have decided to vary the exemption conditions of the individual retail exemption granted to Body Corporate of The Waratah Main Beach CTS 16570 as contained in Schedule 1, attached to this letter.

What you need to do

From 10 March 2026

Notify the AER of any revised contact details for Body Corporate of The Waratah Main Beach CTS 16570's authorised representative, including their name, email address and telephone number. You can notify the AER by emailing: [AERexemptions@aer.gov.au](mailto:AERexemptions@ aer.gov.au)

By 1 July 2026

Develop and implement an exempt seller family violence policy, that contains at a minimum, the standardised statements provided in the AER's *Exempt Seller Family Violence Policy template*, which can be found on our website [here](#).

¹ In accordance with rule 158 of the National Energy Retail Rules (**Retail Rules**)

² As per our requirements under rule 156 of the Retail Rules

³ In accordance with rules 157 and 158 of the Retail Rules

What happens if the varied conditions aren't adhered to?

Section 112(2) of the National Energy Retail Law (**Retail Law**) requires exempt persons to comply with the conditions attached to their individual exemptions. Failing to adhere to these conditions is considered a breach of the Retail Law and may attract civil penalties.

Next steps

We will publish the variation on our website in due course.

If you have any further queries, or would like to discuss this further, please contact Tom Soo on [REDACTED] or email AERexemptions@aer.gov.au

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Rebecca Holland
General Manager (A/g)
Compliance and Enforcement

Sent by email on: 10.02.2026

Schedule 1: Instrument of Exemption

VARIATION OF CONDITIONS OF INDIVIDUAL EXEMPTION

DATE OF APPROVAL: **23 June 2017**

DATE OF VARIATION: **9 February 2026**

FORM OF ENERGY: **Electricity**

This individual retail exemption applies to Body Corporate of The Waratah Main Beach CTS 16570 / ABN 95 165 737 845 for the sale of electricity to premises at The Waratah Main Beach Apartments, 22 Montgomery Avenue, Main Beach QLD 4217.

Condition 1 – Provision of information to residents regarding embedded network retrofit

1. The exempt person must provide notice, by letter, to residents of the building to be retrofitted at The Waratah Main Beach Apartments, of the plan to install an embedded network.
2. The exempt person must provide each resident with the following information regarding the installation of the embedded network:
 - a) a written notice which provides the resident with information concerning:
 - i) the resident's right to choose their own retailer, even within an embedded network
 - ii) the resident's ability to enter into an energy only contract⁴ with an authorised electricity retailer
 - iii) the obligations regarding electricity offer matching, as set out in condition 3
 - iv) the obligations regarding duplication of network fees, as set out in condition 4.
 - b) a copy of the electricity sales agreement to be offered by the exempt person
 - c) the contact details of a representative of the exempt person who will address any concerns and queries relating to the planned retrofit.

The exempt person must ensure that information regarding the proposed retrofit is clearly, fully and adequately disclosed, and that it has regard to a person's capacity to provide consent.

Condition 2 – Collecting and recording explicit informed consent

1. The exempt person must provide the resident with the information set out in Condition 1, prior to seeking the resident's explicit informed consent to the retrofitting of the embedded network.
2. The exempt person must keep records of the consent obtained. These records must:
 - a) include copies of the information provided to residents
 - b) include records of consultations and meetings held with residents
 - c) identify and record which residents have not consented and the reasons for non-consent

⁴ 'Energy only contract' means a contract that charges customers for their energy consumption only and does not include a supply charge.

- d) record the outcome of any negotiation and/or dispute resolution with residents
 - e) be kept for a period of two years
 - f) to be provided to the AER on request
3. The exempt person must engage with residents who do not consent, and seek to mitigate their concerns.
 4. The exempt person must record the resident's consent for the embedded network retrofit in a document that is separate to any document acknowledging that the resident is selecting the exempt person as its electricity supplier.

Condition 3 – Offer matching

1. The exempt person must fulfil a request made by the exempt customer to match any genuine electricity offer that would be available to the particular exempt customer if they were still connected to the grid.
2. The exempt person must fulfil any request made by an exempt customer to match an electricity offer if the request is made 12 months or more after a previous request.
3. In the absence of a subsequent request to match an electricity offer, the exempt person need only apply the matched offer for a period of 12 months.
4. The exempt person's obligation to match an electricity offer expires upon termination or renewal of the customer's tenancy/lease.

Condition 4 – Duplication of network charges

1. The exempt person must ensure that residents who enter into an energy only contract with an authorised retailer are not billed twice for network charges.
2. The exempt person must negotiate directly with the authorised retailer of the resident to ensure that the resident is not billed twice for network charges.
3. The exempt person must reimburse the resident for any duplicate network charges incurred by them as a result of an energy only contract.

Condition 5 – Metering arrangements

1. The exempt person must not charge a resident the cost of any changes to metering and other network alterations that take place in the course of retrofitting the embedded network.
2. The exempt person must ensure that metering arrangements within the embedded network allow for residents to access retail competition.

Condition 6 – Obligation to supply

1. Subject to conditions 14 and 15, the exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a resident except where the resident's premises have been disconnected by the exempt person for a reason other than failure to pay a bill and the matter leading to the disconnection has not been rectified. The exempt person must reconnect the premises and offer to sell energy once the matter is rectified.

Condition 7 – Provision of exempt selling information to exempt customers

1. The exempt person must advise an exempt customer, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/residency/electricity sale agreement of the following:
 - a) any right of the exempt customer, under state laws, to elect to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice and information on the options for metering that would allow this choice
 - b) that the exempt person is not subject to all the obligations of an authorised retailer, and the exempt customer will not receive the same protections as it would if it were purchasing from an authorised retailer
 - c) the exempt customer's rights in relation to dispute resolution including:
 - i) the exempt person's procedures for handling disputes and complaints
 - ii) any right that the exempt customer has to access the energy Ombudsman scheme or any other relevant external dispute resolution body in the state in which the exempt customer is located
 - d) the conditions applicable to the exemption that the exempt person is operating under
 - e) the availability of relevant government or non-government energy rebates, concessions and relief schemes
 - f) the forms of assistance available if the exempt customer is unable to pay energy bills due to financial difficulty, as well as the process the exempt customer should follow to seek these forms of assistance
 - g) the energy tariffs and all associated fees and charges that will apply to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of energy
 - h) the flexible payment options that are available to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of energy, such as arrangements for payment by periodic instalments (bill smoothing)
 - i) contact numbers in the event of an electricity fault or emergency, including the number for a 24-hour emergency contact line.
2. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/residency/agreement, the information set out in condition 7(1) of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.

Condition 8 – Billing and payment arrangements

1. The exempt person must ensure that bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
2. The exempt person must offer at least two payment methods to an exempt customer. However, if an exempt person offers direct debit as one payment method, they must also offer at least two other payment methods to an exempt customer (that is, at least three methods in total). In each case, at least one of the payment methods offered must be able to be effected without internet access. For example:
 - a) in person
 - b) by telephone
 - c) by mail

- d) by direct deposit into a bank account.
- 3. The exempt person must offer a payment plan to an exempt customer who has identified themselves as being in financial difficulty. Requirements for establishing a payment plan are specified in condition 17.
- 4. The requirements in condition 8(3) do not apply where the exempt customer has:
 - a) had two payment plans cancelled by the exempt person in the previous 12 months due to non-payment, or
 - b) been convicted of an offence involving illegal use of energy in the previous two years.
- 5. An exempt person must include the following particulars in a bill for an exempt customer:
 - a) the name of the exempt customer
 - b) the address of the exempt customer's premises
 - c) date that the account was issued
 - d) the identifier of the meter for the exempt customer's premises
 - e) the pay-by date for the bill
 - f) date of the current meter reading or estimate, as applicable
 - g) the dates to which the meter reading or estimate applies (billing period)
 - h) current meter reading or estimate in kilowatt hours and/or cubic metres, as applicable. Where the amount is an estimate, this must be clearly stated on the bill.
 - i) previous meter reading or estimate in kilowatt hours and/or cubic metres, as applicable. Where the amount is an estimate, this must be clearly stated on the bill.
 - j) the amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the meter reading period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours.
 - k) tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer
 - l) the basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated
 - m) any amount deducted, credited or received under a government or non-government funded energy charge rebate, concession or relief scheme or under a payment arrangement
 - n) details of the available payment methods
 - o) a telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

Condition 9 – Estimation as basis for bills

- 1. The exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and used as the basis, or apportioned, for any bill issued.
- 2. The exempt person cannot rely on an estimation of the meter value at the start of an energy supply arrangement with an exempt customer, or for the purpose of issuing a final bill to an exempt customer.
- 3. The exempt person may base an exempt customer's bill on an estimation of the exempt customer's consumption of energy where the exempt person is not able to reasonably or reliably base the bill on an actual meter reading.
- 4. Where an estimation is used as the basis for an exempt customer's bill, the estimation must be based on:

- a) historical metering data for the exempt customer reasonably available to the exempt person, or
- b) where this is not available, the average usage of energy by a comparable customer over the corresponding period.

5. If an exempt customer's bill is based on an estimation, this must be clearly stated on the bill.

Condition 10 – Pay-by date

1. The pay-by date for a bill must not be less than 13 business days from the date on which the exempt person issues the bill.

Condition 11 – Receipts

1. The exempt person must provide each exempt customer with a receipt for any amount paid for energy, except where payment has been made by:
 - a) direct debit, or
 - b) credit card over the phone and the customer is provided with a receipt number.
2. The exempt person must provide the exempt customer with a separate receipt if a payment for energy was made together with a rent payment but has not been separately identified on the rent receipt.

Condition 12 – Pricing

1. The exempt person must not charge the exempt customer tariffs higher than the standing offer price that would be charged by the relevant local area retailer for new connections, if the local area retailer were to supply that quantity, or estimated quantity, of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer.
2. The exempt person must provide notice to the exempt customer of any change in the exempt customer's tariff as soon as practicable, and no later than the exempt customer's next bill.
3. The exempt person must not impose any charge on an exempt customer that could not be charged by the relevant local area retailer for new connections under a standard retail contract.⁵
4. The exempt person must limit any fee charged to a customer for late payment to a recovery of reasonably incurred costs by the exempt person as a result of the customer's late payment.⁶

Condition 13 – Undercharging and overcharging

1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, the exempt person can recover the amount undercharged subject to the following:
 - a) where the undercharging was not the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to recovering the amount

⁵ For clarification, a "charge" includes, but is not limited to, account establishment fees, late payment fees, debt collection fees, service charges, and security deposits. The fees and charges allowable under a standard retail contract are governed by Division 6 of the National Energy Retail Rules (which sets out the requirements for charging a security deposit under a standard retail contract) and may also be governed by jurisdictional legislation.

⁶ For clarification, a late payment fee can only be charged where it has not been excluded by jurisdictional legislation.

undercharged in the 9 months before the date on which the customer is notified of the undercharging

- b) the exempt person cannot charge interest on the undercharged amount
2. the exempt person must offer the exempt customer time to pay the undercharged amount by instalments, over a period nominated by the customer (up to 12 months, but no longer than the period of the undercharging).
- a) Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, the exempt person must inform the customer within 10 business days after becoming aware of the overcharging and repay the amount overcharged subject to the following:
 - b) where the amount overcharged is \$25 or more, the exempt person must refund the amount to the exempt customer if requested, or if no such request is made, credit the amount to the exempt customer's next bill. Where the exempt customer no longer purchases energy from the exempt person, the exempt person must use best endeavours to refund the amount within 10 business days.
 - c) where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.
 - d) no interest is payable on the overcharged amount.

Condition 14 – Disconnection or cessation of supply

1. Where an exempt customer informs the exempt person that they are unable to pay energy bills due to financial difficulty, the exempt person must:
- a) direct the exempt customer to the Australian government energy efficiency website or another information resource with energy efficiency advice, and
 - b) ensure that the exempt customer is aware of relevant government or non-government energy rebates, concessions and relief schemes, and
 - c) offer the exempt customer the option of a payment plan, and
 - d) not charge the exempt customer a late payment fee, and
 - e) not charge the exempt customer a security deposit.
2. Subject to Condition 15, the exempt person must not proceed with disconnection or cessation of energy supply to an exempt customer unless the following requirements have been met:
- a) the exempt customer has requested disconnection, or
 - b) continuity of supply to the premises would be unsafe, or
 - c) the exempt customer's tenancy/residency/agreement has ended and the exempt customer is vacating the premises, or
 - d) the exempt customer has not paid a bill by the pay-by date or has not adhered to the terms of a payment plan, and:
 - i) following non-payment by the pay-by date, the exempt person has given the exempt customer a reminder notice requesting payment by a date at least 6 business days from the date of issue of the reminder notice, and, in the case of residential exempt customers, has offered to establish a payment plan with the exempt customer and has restated the forms of assistance available if the non-payment is due to financial difficulty, and

- ii) following non-payment by the date specified in the reminder notice, or, in the case of residential customers, the establishment of a payment plan, the exempt person has given the exempt customer a disconnection warning notice informing the exempt customer that disconnection may occur if payment of the outstanding bill is not made by a date at least 6 business days from the date of issue of the warning notice, and
 - iii) the exempt person has, after issuing the disconnection warning notice, used its best endeavours to contact the customer in person or by telephone in connection with the failure to pay, and
 - iv) the exempt customer has, by the date specified in the disconnection warning notice, refused or failed to take any reasonable action towards settling the debt.
3. Where an exempt customer is disconnected in accordance with condition 14(2)(b), the exempt person must use its best endeavours to notify the exempt customer in person or by telephone prior to the disconnection, and must arrange for reconnection of the premises as soon as practicable.
 4. This condition does not apply where state tenancy legislation sets out the process and requirements for the disconnection or cessation of energy supply by the exempt person on the basis that they are a landlord.

Condition 15 – When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

1. The exempt person must not disconnect or cease energy supply to an exempt customer's premises where:
 - a) a person residing at the exempt customer's premises requires life support equipment that depends on energy for its operation, or
 - b) an application has been made by or on behalf of the exempt customer for assistance to an organisation responsible for a rebate, concession or relief available under any government or non-government funded energy charge rebate, concession or relief scheme and a decision on the application has not been made, or
 - c) the exempt customer has made a complaint directly related to the proposed reason for disconnection or cessation of supply, to the exempt person, the energy Ombudsman or another relevant external dispute resolution body and the complaint remains unresolved, or
 - d) the disconnection or cessation of supply would occur on:
 - i) a business day before 8am or after 3pm, or
 - ii) a Friday or the day before a public holiday, or
 - iii) a weekend or a public holiday, or
 - iv) the days between 20 December and 31 December (inclusive) in any year.
2. The exempt person must contact its distributor to ask whether disconnection of a retail customer in the relevant jurisdiction would be prohibited on that day due to extreme weather conditions. Where the distributor confirms that the disconnection of a retail customer would be prohibited on that day, the exempt person must not disconnect the exempt customer's premises.
3. This condition does not apply where:
 - a) the exempt customer has requested disconnection, or

- b) where continuity of supply to the exempt customer's premises would be unsafe, or
- c) this condition does not apply where there is an unplanned interruption to supply, or
- d) this condition does not apply where the energy supply agreement between the exempt person and exempt customer has been terminated.

Condition 16 – Reconnection or re-energisation

1. Where an exempt customer is disconnected in accordance with conditions 14 and 15 and the customer makes a request for reconnection, the exempt person must reconnect the premises as soon as practicable after:
 - a) a request for reconnection is made. A request for reconnection can be made ten business days after disconnection, or sooner if the matter that led to the disconnection is rectified.
 - b) any charges for reconnection are paid, and
 - c) the customer agrees to enter into a payment plan with the exempt seller.
2. Subject to condition 16(1), the exempt person must reconnect the premises (or, where required, arrange with the distributor to reconnect the premises) as soon as practicable, and no later than two days from when the request was made.
3. Once reconnected, the exempt person may apply outstanding amounts owed by the exempt customer on previous energy accounts, to future energy bills.
4. Subject to condition 16(1), the exempt person cannot refuse to supply an exempt customer on the grounds that they owe outstanding amounts on their energy account.

Condition 17 – Payment plans

1. In establishing a payment plan the exempt seller must have regard to:
 - a) the exempt customer's capacity to pay; and
 - b) any arrears owing by the exempt customer; and
 - c) the exempt customer's expected energy consumption needs over the following 12-month period.
2. An exempt seller who offers a payment plan to an exempt customer under this condition must inform the exempt customer of:
 - a) the duration of the plan; and
 - b) the amount of each instalment payable under the plan, the frequency of instalments and the date by which each instalment must be paid.

Condition 18 – Concessions and rebates

1. Where an exempt customer is eligible to receive a government or non-government energy rebate, concession or assistance under a relief scheme, the exempt person must not hinder an exempt customer's attempts to establish eligibility.
2. If the government or non-government energy rebate, concession or assistance under a retail scheme can only be claimed by the exempt person on behalf of the eligible exempt customer, then, assuming there is no legal impediment, the exempt person must make that claim and, if successful, must apply the rebate, concession or assistance to the exempt customer's bill.

Condition 19 – Life support customers

1. Where an exempt customer provides an exempt person with confirmation from a registered medical practitioner that a person residing at the exempt customer's premises requires life support equipment, the exempt person must:
 - a) advise the person whose embedded distribution network the sale of energy is occurring within (if different from the exempt person) that a person residing at the premises requires life support equipment, and
 - b) advise the exempt person's authorised retailer and distributor that the person residing at the premises requires life support equipment, and
 - c) provide the exempt person's authorised retailer and distributor with any relevant information about the premises for the purposes of updating their records and registers.
2. An exempt person must maintain records of any exempt customers who have life support equipment that depends on energy for its operation on their premises.

Condition 20 – Planned interruption to supply

1. In the case of a planned interruption, the exempt person must notify each affected exempt customer by any appropriate means of the interruption at least 4 business days before the date of the interruption.
2. The notification must:
 - a) specify the expected date, time and duration of the interruption; and
 - b) include a telephone number for enquiries (the charge for which is no more than the cost of a local call); and
 - c) include a statement that any enquiries regarding planned interruptions are to be directed to the exempt seller.
3. The exempt person must use its best endeavours to restore the exempt customer's supply as soon as possible.

Condition 21 – Unplanned interruptions to supply

1. In the case of an unplanned interruption, the exempt person must:
 - a) within 30 minutes of being advised of the interruption, or otherwise as soon as practicable, make available, by way of a 24 hour telephone service (the charge for which is no more than the cost of a local call), information on the nature of the interruption and an estimate of the time when supply will be restored or when reliable information on restoration of supply will be available; and
 - b) if the telephone service is automated-provide options for exempt customers who call the service to be directly connected to a telephone operator if required; and
 - c) use its best endeavours to restore supply to affected exempt customers as soon as possible.

Condition 22 – Choice of retailer

1. Where an exempt customer is eligible under state legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice, the exempt person must not do anything to discourage or prevent them from exercising this choice, whether by:
 - a) requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer
 - b) unreasonably hindering their efforts to find another retailer, or

- c) unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

Condition 23 – Contact details

1. The exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints that can be readily accessed by exempt customers. Where a telephone number is provided, the charge for this call must be no more than the cost of a local call.

Condition 24 – Dispute resolution

1. In the event of a dispute concerning the sale of energy to an exempt customer, and in the absence of a determination of the relevant tenancy tribunal if the customer is a resident, the exempt person must:
 - a) make reasonable endeavours to resolve the dispute, and
 - b) advise the exempt customer of any right that the exempt customer has to access the energy Ombudsman scheme or any other relevant external dispute resolution body in the state in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.
2. The exempt person's dispute resolution process must meet, at a minimum, Australian Standards: AS/NZS 10002:2014 Customer Satisfaction - Guidelines for complaints handling in organisations.

Condition 25 – Continuity of supply

1. The exempt person must notify the exempt customers and the AER immediately if they are (or expect to be) disconnected, or there is any likelihood that they will be unable to continue selling energy.

Condition 26 – Termination of energy supply agreement

1. An energy supply agreement between the exempt person and an exempt customer will terminate:
 - a) on a date agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer, or
 - b) five business days (or a different time agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer) from the date when the exempt customer gives the exempt person a termination notice, or
 - c) at the conclusion of the exempt customer's lease for, or occupancy of, the premises to which the energy is supplied, or
 - d) when the exempt customer starts receiving energy retail services from a different retailer or exempt person, or
 - e) when a different exempt customer moves in and starts receiving customer retail services for the premises, or
 - f) at the end of a period of 10 business days commencing on the day the exempt customer's premises are disconnected, where the conditions for reconnection have not been met.
2. Termination of an arrangement to supply energy does not affect any rights or obligations that have already accrued under the agreement.

Condition 27 – Maintaining records

1. The exempt person must maintain records of the following for each of its exempt customers:
 - a) The name of the exempt customer.
 - b) The address of the exempt customer's premises.

- c) The identifier of the meter for the exempt customer's premises (if applicable).
- d) The date that the customer account was created.
- e) Copies of any bills issued for the previous 12 months.
- f) The date of the most recent meter read for the customer (if applicable).
- g) The basis for determining any estimates of consumption for the purpose of billing where a meter read could not be obtained.

Condition 28 – Member of energy ombudsman scheme

1. An exempt person must, if permitted by an energy ombudsman scheme:
 - a) be a member of, or subject to, an energy ombudsman scheme for each jurisdiction where it sells energy to exempt customers and
 - b) comply with the requirements of that scheme

Condition 29 – Hardship policy

1. An exempt person must develop, implement, maintain, and comply with, a plain English hardship policy for their residential exempt customers that contains at a minimum, the standardised statements provided in the AER's *Exempt seller hardship policy template* published on the AER's website and as in force from time to time.
2. An exempt person's hardship policy must be implemented no later than 3 months from the exemption registration/approval date to which this condition applies.
3. An exempt person's residential exempt customer hardship policy must include:
 - a) processes for the early response by the exempt person in the case of residential exempt customers identifying themselves as experiencing payment difficulties due to hardship,
 - b) flexible payment options (including payment plans) for the payment of energy bills by residential exempt customers experiencing hardship,
 - c) processes for notifying residential exempt customers experiencing hardship of appropriate government concession programs and appropriate financial counselling services, and
 - d) processes to assist residential exempt customers with strategies to improve their energy efficiency.
4. An exempt person's hardship policy must not include unreasonable conditions that a residential exempt customer has to meet before being eligible for hardship support, including that the exempt customer must:
 - a) attend financial counselling
 - b) be represented by a third party such as a financial counsellor
 - c) submit to an energy audit
 - d) make a one-off payment or make a certain number of instalments towards their debt
 - e) pay their bills on time.
5. An exempt person's customer hardship policy must specify that the exempt person:
 - a) will take into account all of the circumstances of the residential exempt customer, and having regard to those circumstances, act fairly and reasonably, and

- b) will provide a customer who is entitled to receive assistance under the exempt person's customer hardship policy with that assistance, in a timely manner.
6. If an exempt person deems a residential exempt customer to be ineligible for hardship assistance, the exempt person must:
 - a) Provide the residential exempt customer the reasons why, and
 - b) Advise the residential exempt customer of their right to contact the energy ombudsman scheme within their state.
 7. An exempt person must provide an exempt customer who is also a residential customer, a hardcopy or electronic link to its hardship policy at the start of their tenancy / residency / agreement or when an exempt customer informs the exempt person that they are experiencing payment difficulties.

Condition 30 – Assistance for customers affected by family violence

1. An exempt seller must develop, implement, maintain, and comply with, a plain English family violence policy for exempt customers, that contains at a minimum, the standardised statements provided in the *AER's Exempt seller family violence policy template*, published on the AER website and as in force from time to time.
2. An exempt seller's family violence policy must be implemented no later than 1 July 2026.
3. An exempt seller's family violence policy must include:
 - a) information explaining what family violence is, including examples of what family violence can include,
 - b) processes for the early response by the exempt seller in the case of affected exempt customers identifying themselves as experiencing family violence,
 - c) processes to keep the affected exempt customer's energy account information⁷ confidential,
 - d) information about the impact of family violence,
 - e) assistance available to affected exempt customers experiencing payment difficulties, and
 - f) referrals to appropriate family violence support services.
4. An exempt seller's family violence policy must not include unreasonable conditions that an affected exempt customer, or their nominated representative, has to meet before being eligible for support, including requiring an affected exempt customer to:
 - a) provide evidence of family violence or police notification, as a precondition for accessing the protections and support set out in this condition and the exempt seller's family violence policy,
 - b) be represented by a third party,
 - c) make a one-off payment or make a certain number of instalments towards their debt, or
 - d) pay their bills on time.
5. An exempt seller must, in any dealing with an affected exempt customer, have regard firstly to their safety, and take into account their particular circumstances.

⁷ 'Affected exempt customer information' refers to any information that may be used to identify, communicate with or locate an affected exempt customer, including information about their whereabouts, contact details, or financial or personal circumstances.

6. An exempt seller must:
 - a) take reasonable steps to identify the affected exempt customer's preferred method of communication,
 - b) offer alternative methods of communication if the affected exempt customer's preferred method of communication identified in subclause (6)(a) is not practicable, and
 - c) use the identified method in all communications with the affected exempt customer.
7. An exempt seller must implement a secure process that:
 - a) provides a method for any person acting on its behalf⁸ to identify the account of an affected exempt customer, with the affected exempt customer's permission,
 - b) avoids the need for an affected exempt customer to repeatedly disclose or refer to their experience of family violence, and
 - c) records an affected exempt customer's preferred communication method (as per subclause (6)).
8. An exempt seller must not:
 - a) require an affected exempt customer to provide documentary evidence of family violence as a precondition to receiving assistance under these conditions, or
 - b) disclose or provide access to affected exempt customer information, related to their energy account,⁹ to any other person¹⁰ without the consent of the affected customer, unless required by law to provide the information.
9. An exempt seller must:
 - a) waive any late payment fees associated with the energy debt of an affected exempt customer, and
 - b) take into account the potential impact of debt recovery action on an affected exempt customer, including whether other persons are jointly or severally responsible for the debt, before transferring affected exempt customer debt to a third-party debt collector.
10. An exempt seller must not disconnect an affected exempt customer if:
 - a) the de-energisation will impact the affected exempt customer's safety,
 - b) other persons are jointly or severally responsible for the relevant non-payment, or
 - c) the non-payment is a result of financial abuse.
11. An exempt seller must ensure that any person acting on its behalf,¹¹ who engages with its exempt customers:
 - a) has reviewed the exempt seller's family violence policy,
 - b) acts in accordance with the obligations under this condition.

⁸ This may include, but is not limited to, members; employees; or third-party service providers.

⁹ 'Affected exempt customer information' refers to any information that may be used to identify, communicate with or locate an affected exempt customer, including information about their whereabouts, contact details, or financial or personal circumstances.

¹⁰ 'Any other person' means a person other than the affected exempt customer and includes a person who is or has been a joint account holder with an affected exempt customer, but does not include a contractor, subcontractor or agent of the exempt seller that requires access to the affected exempt customer's information in order to perform services for the exempt seller.

¹¹ This may include, but is not limited to, members; employees; or third-party service providers.

12. An exempt seller must ensure the terms and conditions set out in any exempt customer energy contract are consistent with the obligations under this condition, except where State or Territory laws take precedence.
13. The exempt seller must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/residency/agreement of the forms of assistance available if the exempt customer is affected by family violence, as well as the process the exempt customer should follow to seek this assistance. The exempt seller must inform an exempt customer of the availability of its family violence policy and offer to provide a hardcopy or electronic link to the policy.
14. Where an exempt customer informs the exempt seller that they are experiencing payment difficulties, the exempt seller must provide the exempt customer a hardcopy or electronic link to its family violence policy established in accordance with this condition.

Condition 31 – Notification requirement

1. An exempt seller must notify the AER within 20 business days of any revised contact details of the exempt seller's authorised representative, including their name, email address and telephone number.