



Better Regulation Update – July 2013

Recap

June & July

- **Expenditure assessments:** workshop held on benchmarking techniques, and general guideline consultation.
- **Power of choice:** released draft RIT-D on 4 June, held two RIT-D workshops.
- **Rate of return:** held three workshops in June, received 17 submissions on further consultation paper.
- **Consumer engagement:** released draft guideline on 1 July.
- **Consumer reference group:** held CRG meeting.
- **Consumer challenge panel:** announced panel members on 1 July.

Upcoming

July & August

- **Power of choice:** submissions on draft RIT-D and application guidelines close 18 July.
- **Shared assets:** releasing draft guideline in late July.
- **Expenditure assessments:** releasing draft guideline by 9 August.
- **Expenditure incentives:** releasing draft guideline by 9 August.
- **Confidentiality:** releasing draft guideline by 9 August.
- **Rate of return:** releasing draft guideline around mid-August.
- **Consumer engagement:** submissions on draft guideline close 16 August.

We are approaching the halfway point of Better Regulation. We have completed the first round of consultation on all work streams and are now finalising our draft guidelines.

Consumer engagement has been a major focus of our most recent work. We recently announced the membership of the Consumer Challenge Panel. Panel members will advise us on whether network businesses' proposals are justified in terms of the services to be delivered to consumers and whether they are in the long term interests of consumers. We also published our draft consumer engagement guideline for network service providers. The guideline provides best practice principles and a framework for businesses to better engage with their consumers.

We received 17 submissions following our extension of the closing date for submissions on our rate of return consultation paper. All stakeholder submissions are now available on the rate of return guideline page at <http://www.aer.gov.au/node/18859>.

We will publish all our draft guidelines over the coming weeks, marking the start of our next round of consultation.

Spotlight: our draft guidelines

The draft guidelines are an important step in the Better Regulation program. The draft guidelines clarify our positions, incorporating the valuable stakeholder feedback from our issues papers and workshops. The draft guidelines allow stakeholders to see for the first time what the actual guidelines are likely to contain. The draft guidelines give stakeholders an opportunity to give us substantive feedback to help shape our final guidelines.

Following the release of our draft guidelines we will hold further workshops and forums in advance of the closing dates for submissions.

We released our draft consumer engagement guideline on 1 July, requesting submissions by 16 August. We plan to release our shared assets guidelines in late July. We will release our expenditure assessments, expenditure incentives and confidentiality draft guidelines by 9 August. We plan to publish our draft rate of return guideline around mid-August.

Factsheets distilling key issues will accompany all our draft guidelines. All this information can be accessed from the Better Regulation webpage. We look forward to engaging further with stakeholders on the guidelines.