Determinations of deemed and registrable classes of exemption (and associated conditions)

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# **Class D1 Conditions**

Persons selling metered energy to commercial or retail tenants for use within the limits of a site that they own, occupy or operate, where the relationship is a landlord/lessee relationship and there are less than 10 tenants at the site

Note—This class applies to the selling of energy by landlords, lessors or management corporations (and similar entities) in commercial developments such as shopping centres, office buildings, airports and industrial parks.

An exemption is registrable for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of energy to small non residential customers where:

- 1. the energy is used for premises within the limits of a site owned, occupied or operated by the person, and
- 2. the premises are separately metered, and
- 3. the site includes fewer than 10 commercial or retail premises,
- 4. the person selling the energy is a landlord, lessor or management corporation (or similar entity), and
- 5. the cost of the energy is recouped in accordance with the terms of the lease between the small customer and the person.

## Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to exempt customers by exempt persons covered by the Class D1 registrable exemption.

#### **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

#### **Condition 2 - Information provision**

1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/occupancy of the following:

- a. any right of the exempt customer, under state or territory 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 may not receive the same protections as it would if they 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, and
  - 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located
- d. the conditions applicable to the exemption that the exempt person is operating under
- e. the energy tariffs and all associated fees and charges that will apply to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of energy
- f. contact numbers in the event of a gas or electricity fault or emergency.
- 2. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/occupancy, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.
- 3. Once the determination comes into force in the relevant state or territory, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable but no later than three months after the determination is in force in the relevant state or territory.

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. 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. Days in the billing period.
- i. 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.
- j. 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.
- k. The amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the meter reading period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours. For gas, consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied (these must be the same as those applied by the retailer from whom the exempt person purchases gas for the site).
- 1. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
- m. The basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated.
- n. Details of the available payment methods.
- o. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

#### Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An 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. An 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 a 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 a customer's bill is based on an estimation, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

#### **Condition 5 - 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 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An 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. An 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 7 – Pricing**

Where access to retail contestability is not available,<sup>1</sup> an 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 of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer

#### **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

- 1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, an 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 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.
  - c. The exempt person must offer the exempt customer time to pay the undercharged amount by instalments, over a period nominated by the customer (up to12 months, but no longer than the period of the undercharging).
- 2. Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, an 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:
  - a. 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This condition applies if immediate access to choice of retailer is not available, that is, where the customer must pay for and negotiate a new connection and pay for associated infrastructure.

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.

- b. Where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.
- c. No interest is payable on the overcharged amount.
- d. Where the overcharging was the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to repaying the amount overcharged in the 12 months before the date on which the error was discovered.

#### Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply

- 1. Subject to Condition 9, an 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 lease has expired 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 advising the exempt customer that the exempt person may offer them more flexible payment terms to pay any amount outstanding, and
    - ii. following non-payment by the date specified in the reminder notice, or the establishment of more flexible payment terms, 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.
- 2. Where an exempt customer is disconnected in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this condition, 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.

3. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

- 1. An 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. 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
  - c. 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 (both inclusive) in any year.
- 2. For electricity, 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 the exempt customer has requested disconnection.
- 4. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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.
- 5. This condition does not apply where the exempt customer's lease has expired.

#### **Condition 11 - Reconnection of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt person has arranged for the disconnection of an exempt customer's premises and the exempt customer has within 10 business days of the disconnection:
  - a. if relevant, rectified the matter that led to the disconnection, and

- b. made a request for reconnection, and
- c. paid any charge for reconnection,

the exempt person must reconnect the premises (or, where required, arrange with the network operator to reconnect the premises) as soon as practicable.

#### **Condition 12 – Concessions and rebates**

#### *Not applicable*

#### **Condition 13 - Choice of retailer**

1. The exempt person must not seek to prevent an exempt customer who is eligible under applicable state or territory legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice from electing to do so, whether by requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer or by unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

#### **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - Dispute resolution**

- 1. In the event of a dispute concerning the sale of energy to any exempt customer, and in the absence of a determination of the relevant tenancy tribunal, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

#### **Condition 16 – Life support customers**

#### *Not applicable*

#### **Condition 17 - Continuity of supply**

1. An 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 18 – Termination of energy supply agreement**

1. An energy supply agreement between the exempt person and exempt customer terminates:

- a. on a date agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer, or
- b. when the exempt customer gives the exempt person a termination notice, five business days from the date of the notice (or a different time agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer), or
- c. at the conclusion of the exempt customer's lease for 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 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 de-energised, where the conditions for re-energisation have not been met.
- 2. Termination of an energy supply agreement does not affect any rights or obligations that have already accrued under the agreement.

#### **Condition 19 - Maintaining records**

- 1. An 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.
  - 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.
  - g. The basis for determining any estimates of consumption for the purpose of billing where a meter read could not be obtained.

# **Class D2 Conditions**

Persons selling metered energy to residents for use within the limits of a site that they own, occupy or operate, where the relationship is a landlord/lessee relationship or a body corporate relationship and there are less than 10 residences at the site

**Note**—This class is intended to apply to the selling of energy by landlords, lessors or property managers (and similar entities) to residential dwellings such as units, standard apartments, flats and purpose built off-site student accommodation.

A deemed exemption is in force for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of energy to residents where:

- 1. the energy is for use in residential premises located within the limits of a site owned, occupied or operated by that person,
- 2. the site includes fewer than 10 residential premises,
- 3. the premises are separately metered, and
- 4. the person selling the energy is a landlord, lessor or property manager (or similar entity) or a body corporate.

Brownfield sites (sites that required retrofitting with the appropriate metering prior to selling commencing) will only be eligible for this exemption if retrofitting is completed by 1 January 2015.

## Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to residential customers by persons covered by the Class D2 deemed exemption.

#### **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

#### **Condition 2 - Information provision**

1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/residency of the following:

- a. any right of the exempt customer, under state or territory 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 they 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, and
  - 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 or territory 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 a gas or electricity fault or emergency.
- 2. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/residency, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.
- 3. Once the determination comes into force in the relevant state or territory, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable but no later than three months after the determination is in force in the relevant state or territory.

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. An exempt person must offer flexible payment options (in relation to the sale of energy) to an exempt customer who has identified themselves as being in financial difficulty.

Flexible payment options may include arrangements for payment by periodic instalments (bill smoothing) having regard to:

- a. the customer's capacity to pay,
- b. any arrears owing by the customer, and
- c. the customer's expected energy consumption needs over the following 12 month period.
- 3. The requirements in paragraph 2 do not apply where the exempt customer has:
  - a. had two flexible payment arrangements 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
- 4. 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. Days in the billing period.
  - i. 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.
  - j. 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.
  - k. The amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the meter reading period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours. For gas, consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied (these must be the same as those applied by the retailer from whom the exempt person purchases gas for the site).
  - 1. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
  - m. The basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated.

- n. 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.
- o. Details of the available payment methods.
- p. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

#### **Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills**

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An 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. An 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 a 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 a customer's bill is based on an estimation, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

#### **Condition 5 - 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 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An 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. An 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 7 - Pricing**

- 1. An 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 of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer.
- 2. An 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. An 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.
- 4. An 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.
- 5. The requirements in paragraphs 1–4 do not apply where alternative pricing requirements apply under applicable state or territory legislation.

#### **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

- 1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, an 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 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.
  - c. 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).
- 2. Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, an 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:
  - a. 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.
  - b. Where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.

- c. No interest is payable on the overcharged amount.
- d. Where the overcharging was the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to repaying the amount overcharged in the 12 months before the date on which the error was discovered.

#### **Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt customer informs the exempt person that it is 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 resources 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. not charge the exempt customer a late payment fee, and
  - c. not charge the exempt customer a security deposit.
- 2. Subject to Condition 9, an 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 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, has offered the exempt customer more flexible payment terms to pay any amount outstanding 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, and failure to comply with more flexible payment terms, 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 paragraph 2(b) of this condition, 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 or territory 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 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

- 1. An 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 exempt customer is adhering to a payment plan agreed to by the exempt person, or
  - e. 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 (both inclusive) in any year.
- 2. For electricity, 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 the exempt customer has requested disconnection.

- 4. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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.
- 5. This condition does not apply where the energy supply agreement between the exempt person and exempt customer has been terminated.

#### **Condition 11 - Reconnection of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt person has arranged for the disconnection of an exempt customer's premises and the exempt customer has within 10 business days of the disconnection:
  - a. if relevant, rectified the matter that led to the disconnection, and
  - b. made a request for reconnection, and
  - c. paid any charge for reconnection,

the exempt person must reconnect the premises (or, where required, arrange with the network operator to reconnect the premises) as soon as practicable.

#### **Condition 12 - 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 relief scheme can only be claimed by the exempt person on behalf of the exempt customer, the exempt person must use their best endeavours to make a claim and, if successful, they must apply the rebate, concession or assistance to the exempt customer's bill.

#### **Condition 13 - Choice of retailer**

1. The exempt person must not seek to prevent an exempt customer who is eligible under applicable state or territory legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice from electing to do so, whether by requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer or by unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

#### **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - 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, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

#### **Condition 16 - 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 a 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 17 - Continuity of supply**

1. An 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 18 – Termination of energy supply agreement**

- 3. An energy supply agreement between the exempt person and exempt customer terminates:
  - g. on a date agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer, or
  - h. when the exempt customer gives the exempt person a termination notice, five business days from the date of the notice (or a different time agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer), or
  - i. at the conclusion of the exempt customer's lease for the premises to which the energy is supplied, or
  - j. when the exempt customer starts receiving energy retail services from a different retailer or exempt person, or
  - k. when a different exempt customer starts receiving customer retail services for the premises, or

- 1. at the end of a period of 10 business days commencing on the day the exempt customer's premises are de-energised, where the conditions for re-energisation have not been met.
- 4. Termination of an energy supply agreement does not affect any rights or obligations that have already accrued under the agreement.

#### **Condition 19 - Maintaining records**

- 1. An 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.
  - 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.
  - g. The basis for determining any estimates of consumption for the purpose of billing where a meter read could not be obtained.

# **Class D3 Conditions**

# Persons selling metered energy to short term residents for use within the limits of a holiday accommodation site that they own, occupy or operate

Note—This class is intended to apply to the selling of energy to short term residents in holiday accommodation including hotels, motels, inns, holiday flats, holiday cabins, campsites, non-residential caravan parks and marinas.

A deemed exemption is in force for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of energy to residents where:

- 1. the energy is for use in premises located within the limits of a site owned, occupied or operated by that person,
- 2. the person provides holiday accommodation at the site,
- 3. the premises are separately metered, and
- 4. the resident is short term.

For the purposes of this exemption, a reference to a 'short term' resident is a reference to a person who is using the accommodation, where the accommodation is not the person's regular home or dwelling.

Brownfield sites (sites that required retrofitting with the appropriate metering prior to selling commencing) will only be eligible for this exemption if retrofitting is completed by 1 January 2015.

# Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to exempt customers by persons covered by the Class D3 deemed exemption.

#### **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

#### **Condition 2 - Information provision**

1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/residency of the energy tariffs and all associated fees and charges that will apply to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of energy

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. An 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. An exempt person must include the following particulars in a bill for an exempt customer:
  - a. The period covered by the bill.
  - b. The amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the billing period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours. For gas, consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied (these must be the same as those applied by the retailer from whom the exempt person purchases gas for the site).
  - c. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
  - d. The pay-by date for the bill.
  - e. The basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated.

#### **Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills**

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An 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.
- 3. Where an estimation is used as the basis for a 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.
- 4. If a customer's bill is based on an estimation, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

#### **Condition 5 – Pay-by-date**

Not applicable

#### **Condition 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An 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. An 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 7 - Pricing**

1. An 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 of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer.

#### **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

*Not applicable* 

#### Condition 9 – Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply

*Not applicable* 

#### Condition 10 – When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

*Not applicable* 

#### **Condition 11 – Reconnection of supply**

*Not applicable* 

#### **Condition 12 – Concessions and rebates**

*Not applicable* 

**Condition 13 – Choice of retailer** 

*Not applicable* 

#### **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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.

No further conditions apply to this class

# **Class D4 Revoked**

# Persons selling metered energy to residents for use within the limits of a site that they own, occupy or operate, where the relationship between the person and the resident is not governed by residential tenancy legislation

This class no longer exists. This class has been incorporated into class D1 which covers the metered sale of energy to residential tenants by landlords or bodies corporate within the confines of a site they own, operate or control. This applies for up to ten residences.

For more than ten residences, the landlord must register under class R1.

# **Class D5 Conditions**

# Persons selling unmetered gas for use in premises within the limits of a site that they own, occupy or operate, where gas is used for limited purposes

Note—This exemption will only apply where gas is used for limited purposes, that is, for use in cooking appliances but does not include gas used in the production of bulk hot water.

A deemed exemption is in force for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of gas where:

- 1. the gas is for use in premises within the limits of a site owned, occupied or operated by the person or, in the case of a body corporate, on land affected by that body corporate, and
- 2. the premises are not separately metered for gas consumption, and
- 3. there is a separate itemised charge for the gas (or, in the case of a body corporate, the cost is recouped through body corporate fees), and
- 4. the gas is not used for space heating.

# Conditions

No conditions apply where a body corporate recoups the cost of gas through body corporate fees.

For the sale of unmetered gas to exempt customers by exempt persons (other than bodies corporate) under the Class D5 deemed exemption, the following conditions apply under rule 153.

#### **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

#### **Condition 2 - Information provision**

- 1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/residency of the following:
  - a. the exempt customer's rights in relation to dispute resolution including:
    - i. the exempt person's procedures for handling disputes and complaints, and

- 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located
- b. the conditions applicable to the exemption that the exempt person is operating under
- c. the gas tariffs and all associated fees and charges that will apply to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of gas
- d. any flexible payment options for gas provided by the exempt person for exempt customers, including alternative payment arrangements for payment by periodic instalments (bill smoothing)
- e. contact numbers in the event of a gas fault or emergency.
- 2. The information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at the request of the exempt customer or the AER.
- 3. The information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable (and at least within three months) after the determination is in force.

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. 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 pay-by date for the bill.
  - e. Date of the meter reading or estimate on which the bill is based, as applicable.
  - f. The dates to which the meter reading or estimate applies (billing period).
  - g. Days in the billing period.
  - h. The amount of gas deemed to be consumed by the exempt customer in the meter reading or estimate period, including the basis of allocation of the deemed amount. Gas consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied
  - i. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
  - j. Details of the available payment methods.

k. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

#### Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the site's gas meter is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An exempt person may base an exempt customer's bill on an estimation of the site's gas consumption where the exempt person is not able to reasonably or reliably base the bill on an actual meter reading.
- 3. Where an estimation of gas consumption for the site is used as the basis for a exempt customer's bill, the estimation must be based on:
  - a. historical metering data for the site reasonably available to the exempt person, or
  - b. where this is not available, the average usage of gas by a comparable site over the corresponding period.
- 4. If a bill is based on an estimation of gas consumption for the site, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

#### **Condition 5 - 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 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An 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. An exempt person must provide the exempt customer with a separate receipt if a payment for gas was made together with a rent payment but has not been separately identified on the rent receipt.

#### **Condition 7 - Pricing**

- 1. An 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 of gas directly to the premises of the exempt customer.
- 2. An exempt person must provide notice to the exempt customer of any change in the exempt customer tariff as soon as practicable, and no later than the exempt customer's next bill.

- 3. An 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.
- 4. An 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.
- 5. The requirements in paragraphs 1–4 do not apply where alternative pricing requirements apply under applicable state or territory legislation.

#### **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

- 1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, an 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 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.
  - c. The exempt person must offer the exempt customer time to pay the undercharged amount by instalments, over a period nominated by the customer (up to12 months, but no longer than the period of the undercharging).
- 2. Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, an 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:
  - a. 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.
  - b. Where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.
  - c. No interest is payable on the overcharged amount.
  - d. Where the overcharging was the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to repaying the amount overcharged in the 12 months before the date on which the error was discovered.

#### Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection of cessation of supply

#### *Not applicable*

#### Condition 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

*Not applicable* 

#### **Condition 11 – Reconnection of supply**

Not applicable

#### **Condition 12 – Concessions and rebates**

*Not applicable* 

#### **Condition 13 – Choice of retailer**

*Not applicable* 

#### **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - Dispute resolution**

- 1. In the event of a dispute concerning the sale of gas to any exempt customer, and in the absence of a determination of the relevant tenancy tribunal, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

#### **Condition 16 – Life support customers**

#### *Not applicable*

#### **Condition 17 – Continuity of supply**

#### *Not applicable*

#### **Condition 18 – Termination of energy supply agreement**

- 1. An energy supply agreement between the exempt person and exempt customer terminates:
  - a. on a date agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer, or
  - b. when the exempt customer gives the exempt person a termination notice, five business days from the date of the notice (or a different time agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer), or

- c. at the conclusion of the exempt customer's lease for the premises to which the energy is supplied, or
- d. when a different exempt customer starts receiving customer retail services for the premises.
- 2. Termination of an energy supply agreement does not affect any rights or obligations that have already accrued under the agreement.

# **Condition 19 – Maintaining records**

*Not applicable* 

# **Class D6 Conditions**

# Persons selling unmetered electricity in Queensland to small customers for use within the limits of a site that they own, occupy or operate

[This class will be closed to new entrants from 1 January 2015]

A deemed exemption is in force for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of electricity to small customers where:

- 1. the electricity is used for premises within the limits of a site owned, occupied or operated by the person, and
- 2. the site is in Queensland, and
- 3. the premises are not separately metered, and
- 4. the sale of electricity commenced prior to 1 January 2015.

## Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of electricity to exempt customers by exempt persons covered by the Class D6 deemed exemption.

#### **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell electricity to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell electricity to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

#### **Condition 2 - Information provision**

- 3. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/residency of the following:
  - a. the exempt customer's rights in relation to dispute resolution including:
    - i. the exempt person's procedures for handling disputes and complaints, and
    - 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located
  - b. the conditions applicable to the exemption that the exempt person is operating under

- c. the availability of relevant government or non-government energy rebates, concessions and relief schemes
- d. the forms of assistance available if the exempt customer is unable to pay electricity bills due to financial difficulty, as well as the process the exempt customer should follow to seek these forms of assistance
- e. the electricity tariffs and all associated fees and charges that will apply to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of electricity
- f. the flexible payment options that are available to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of electricity, such as arrangements for payment by periodic instalments (bill smoothing)
- g. contact numbers in the event of an electricity fault or emergency.
- 4. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/residency, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.
- 5. Once the determination comes into force in Queensland, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable but no later than three months after the determination is in force in Queensland.

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. An exempt person must offer flexible payment options (in relation to the sale of electricity) to a residential exempt customer who has identified themselves as being in financial difficulty. Flexible payment options may include arrangements for payment by periodic instalments (bill smoothing) having regard to:
  - a. the customer's capacity to pay,
  - b. any arrears owing by the customer, and
  - c. the customer's expected electricity consumption needs over the following 12 month period.
- 3. The requirements in paragraph 2 do not apply where the exempt customer has:
  - a. had two flexible payment arrangements 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 electricity in the previous two years
- 4. 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 pay-by date for the bill.
- e. Date of the meter reading or estimate on which the bill is based, as applicable.
- f. The dates to which the meter reading or estimate applies (billing period).
- g. Days in the billing period.
- h. The amount of electricity consumed, or estimated to be consumed, by the site in the meter reading or estimate period. Electricity consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours.
- i. The amount of electricity deemed to be consumed by the exempt customer in the billing period, including the basis of allocation of the deemed amount.
- j. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
- k. Details of the available payment methods.
- 1. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

#### **Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills**

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the site's electricity meter is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An exempt person cannot rely on an estimation of the site's electricity meter value at the start of the electricity supply arrangement with an exempt customer, or for the purpose of issuing a final bill to an exempt customer.
- 3. An exempt person may base an exempt customer's bill on an estimation of the site's electricity consumption where the exempt person is not able to reasonably or reliably base the bill on an actual meter reading.
- 4. Where an estimation of electricity consumption for the site is used as the basis for a exempt customer's bill, the estimation must be based on:
  - a. historical metering data for the site reasonably available to the exempt person, or
  - b. where this is not available, the average usage of electricity by a comparable site over the corresponding period.
- 5. If a customer's bill is based on an estimation of electricity consumption for the site, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

#### **Condition 5 - 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 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An exempt person must provide each exempt customer with a receipt for any amount paid for electricity, 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. An exempt person must provide the exempt customer with a separate receipt if a payment for electricity was made together with a rent payment but has not been separately identified on the rent receipt.

#### **Condition 7 - Pricing**

- 1. An 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 of electricity directly to the premises of the exempt customer.
- 2. An exempt person must provide notice to the exempt customer of any change in the exempt customer tariff as soon as practicable, and no later than the exempt customer's next bill.
- 3. An 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.
- 4. An 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.
- 5. The requirements in paragraphs 1–4 do not apply where alternative pricing requirements apply under applicable state or territory legislation.

#### **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

- 1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, an 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 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.

- c. 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).
- 2. Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, an 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:
  - a. 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 electricity from the exempt person, the exempt person must use best endeavours to refund the amount within 10 business days.
  - b. Where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.
  - c. No interest is payable on the overcharged amount.
  - d. Where the overcharging was the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to repaying the amount overcharged in the 12 months before the date on which the error was discovered.

#### Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply

- 1. Where a residential exempt customer informs the exempt person that it is unable to pay an electricity bill due to financial difficulty, the exempt person must:
  - a. direct the exempt customer to the Australian government energy efficiency website or another information resources with energy efficiency advice, and
  - b. ensure that the exempt customer is aware of relevant government or nongovernment energy rebates, concessions and relief schemes, and
  - c. not charge the exempt customer a late payment fee, and
  - d. not charge the exempt customer a security deposit.
- 2. Subject to Condition 9, an exempt person must not proceed with disconnection or cessation of electricity 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 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, has offered the residential exempt customer more flexible payment terms to pay any amount outstanding 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 the establishment of more flexible payment terms, 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 paragraph 2(b) of this condition, 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 or territory tenancy legislation sets out the process and requirements for the disconnection or cessation of electricity supply by the exempt person on the basis that they are a landlord.

#### Condition 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

- 1. An exempt person must not disconnect or cease electricity 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 electricity 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 (both 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 the exempt customer has requested disconnection.
- 4. This condition does not apply where state or territory tenancy legislation sets out the process and requirements for the disconnection or cessation of electricity supply by the exempt person on the basis that they are a landlord.
- 5. This condition does not apply where the electricity supply agreement between the exempt person and exempt customer has been terminated.

#### **Condition 11 - Reconnection of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt person has arranged for the disconnection of an exempt customer's premises and the exempt customer has within 10 business days of the disconnection:
  - a. if relevant, rectified the matter that led to the disconnection, and
  - b. made a request for reconnection, and
  - c. paid any charge for reconnection,

the exempt person must reconnect the premises (or, where required, arrange with the network operator to reconnect the premises) as soon as practicable.

# **Condition 12 - 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 relief scheme can only be claimed by the exempt person on behalf of the exempt customer, the exempt person must use their best endeavours to make a claim and, if successful, they must apply the rebate, concession or assistance to the exempt customer's bill.

# **Condition 13 – Choice of retailer**

*Not applicable* 

# **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - Dispute resolution**

- 1. In the event of a dispute concerning the sale of electricity to an exempt customer, and in the absence of a determination of the relevant tenancy tribunal, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

# **Condition 16 - 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 electricity 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 a 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 electricity for its operation on their premises.

# **Condition 17 - Continuity of supply**

1. An 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 electricity.

#### Condition 18 – Termination of electricity supply agreement

- 1. An electricity supply agreement between the exempt person and exempt customer terminates:
  - a. on a date agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer, or

- b. when the exempt customer gives the exempt person a termination notice, five business days from the date of the notice (or a different time agreed by the exempt person and exempt customer), or
- c. at the conclusion of the exempt customer's lease for the premises to which the electricity is supplied, or
- d. when the exempt customer starts receiving electricity retail services from a different retailer or exempt person, or
- e. when a different exempt customer 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 de-energised, where the conditions for re-energisation have not been met.
- 2. Termination of an electricity supply agreement does not affect any rights or obligations that have already accrued under the agreement.

# **Condition 19 - Maintaining records**

- 1. An 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.
  - 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.
  - g. The basis for determining any estimates of consumption for the purpose of billing where a meter read could not be obtained.

# **Class D7 Revoked**

Persons recouping the cost of energy used in common areas of a site that they own, occupy or operate, from tenants in commercial or retail premises, where the relationship between the person and the tenant is governed by commercial or retail tenancy legislation

This class no longer exists.

# **Class D8 Conditions**

# Persons selling energy to a related company within the limits of a site that they own, occupy or operate

A deemed exemption is in force for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of energy to a related company, where the energy is used within the limits of a site owned, occupied or operated by the person.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a company controls or is controlled by another company including where:

- 1. a company is a subsidiary of another company, or
- 2. two companies have a common holding company,

the two companies are related and will qualify to operate under this class of exemption.

# Conditions

No conditions are attached to this class of exemption

# **Class R1 Conditions**

# Persons selling metered energy to ten or more small retail or commercial customers within the limits of a site that they own, occupy or operate, where the relationship is a landlord/lessee relationship

Note—This class applies to the selling of energy by landlords, lessors or management corporations (and similar entities) in commercial developments such as shopping centres, office buildings, airports and industrial parks.

An exemption is registrable for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of energy to small customers where:

- 1. the energy is used for premises within the limits of a site owned, occupied or operated by the person, and
- 2. the premises are separately metered, and
- 3. the site includes 10 or more commercial or retail premises
- 4. the person selling the energy is a landlord, lessor or management corporation (or similar entity), and
- 5. the cost of the energy is recouped in accordance with the terms of the lease or other contract between the small customer and the person,
- 6. the sale of energy commenced prior to 1 January 2015.

# Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to exempt customers by exempt persons covered by the Class R1 registrable exemption.

# **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

# **Condition 2 - Information provision**

1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/occupancy of the following:

- a. any right of the exempt customer, under state or territory 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 may not receive the same protections as it would if they 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, and
  - 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located
- d. the conditions applicable to the exemption that the exempt person is operating under
- e. the energy tariffs and all associated fees and charges that will apply to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of energy
- f. contact numbers in the event of a gas or electricity fault or emergency.
- 2. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/occupancy, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.
- 3. Once the determination comes into force in the relevant state or territory, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable but no later than three months after the determination is in force in the relevant state or territory.

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. 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. Days in the billing period.
- i. 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.
- j. 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.
- k. The amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the meter reading period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours. For gas, consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied (these must be the same as those applied by the retailer from whom the exempt person purchases gas for the site).
- 1. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
- m. The basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated.
- n. Details of the available payment methods.
- o. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

#### Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An 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. An 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 a 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 a customer's bill is based on an estimation, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

# **Condition 5 - 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 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An 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. An 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 7 - Pricing**

1. Where access to choice of retailer for a customers is not available,<sup>2</sup> an 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 of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer.

# **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

- 1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, an 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 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.
  - c. The exempt person must offer the exempt customer time to pay the undercharged amount by instalments, over a period nominated by the customer (up to12 months, but no longer than the period of the undercharging).
- 2. Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, an 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:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This condition applies if immediate access to FRC is not available, that is, where the customer must pay for and negotiate a new connection and pay for associated infrastructure.

- a. 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.
- b. Where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.
- c. No interest is payable on the overcharged amount.
- d. Where the overcharging was the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to repaying the amount overcharged in the 12 months before the date on which the error was discovered.

#### Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply

- 1. Subject to Condition 9, an 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 lease has expired 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 advising the exempt customer that the exempt person may offer them more flexible payment terms to pay any amount outstanding, and
    - ii. following non-payment by the date specified in the reminder notice, or the establishment of more flexible payment terms, 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.

- 2. Where an exempt custom er is disconnected in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this condition, 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.
- 3. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

- 1. An 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. 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
  - c. 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 (both inclusive) in any year.
- 2. For electricity, 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 the exempt customer has requested disconnection.
- 4. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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.
- 5. This condition does not apply where the exempt customer's lease has expired.

#### **Condition 11 - Reconnection of supply**

1. Where an exempt person has arranged for the disconnection of an exempt customer's premises and the exempt customer has within 10 business days of the disconnection:

- a. if relevant, rectified the matter that led to the disconnection, and
- b. made a request for reconnection, and
- c. paid any charge for reconnection,

the exempt person must reconnect the premises (or, where required, arrange with the network operator to reconnect the premises) as soon as practicable.

#### **Condition 12 – Concessions and rebates**

#### *Not applicable*

#### **Condition 13 - Choice of retailer**

1. The exempt person must not seek to prevent an exempt customer who is eligible under applicable state or territory legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice from electing to do so, whether by requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer or by unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

#### **Condition 14 - Contact details**

2. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - Dispute resolution**

- 3. In the event of a dispute concerning the sale of energy to any exempt customer, and in the absence of a determination of the relevant tenancy tribunal, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

# **Condition 16 – Life support customers**

#### *Not applicable*

#### **Condition 17 - Continuity of supply**

4. An 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 18 – Termination of energy supply agreement

- 1. The arrangement through which an exempt person supplies energy to 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 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 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 19 - Maintaining records**

- 5. An 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.
  - 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.
  - g. The basis for determining any estimates of consumption for the purpose of billing where a meter read could not be obtained.

# **Class R2 Conditions**

Persons selling metered energy to ten or more small residential customers within the limits of a site that they own, occupy or operate, by body corporate, or where the relationship is a landlord/lessee relationship

# [Individual exemption for those who commence selling on or after 1 January 2015]

[This class will be closed to new entrants from 1 January 2015]

Note—This exemption is not intended to apply to retirement villages. Selling activities within retirement villages which might otherwise fall within this exemption class will be subject to, and required to comply with the conditions applying to class R3.

This exemption applies where there are more than 10 premises within the site. Where there are less than 10 premises within the site, the deemed class exemption D4 applies.

An exemption is registrable for persons falling within the following class:

Bodies corporate engaged in the selling of energy to residents where:

- 1. the energy is used for premises within the limits of a site affected by that body corporate, and
- 2. the premises are separately metered, and
- 3. there are more than ten premises at the site, and
- 4. the sale of energy does not satisfy the criteria for registrable exemption class R3, and
- 5. the sale of energy commenced prior to 1 January 2015.

# Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to exempt customers by exempt persons covered by the Class R2 registrable exemption.

# **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

#### **Condition 2 - Information provision**

- 1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/residency of the following:
  - a. any right of the exempt customer, under state or territory 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 they 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, and
    - 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 or territory 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 a gas or electricity fault or emergency.
- 2. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/residency, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.
- 3. Once the determination comes into force in the relevant state or territory, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable but no later than three months after the determination is in force in the relevant state or territory.

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. An exempt person must offer flexible payment options (in relation to the sale of energy) to an exempt customer who has identified themselves as being in financial difficulty. Flexible payment options may include arrangements for payment by periodic instalments (bill smoothing) having regard to:
  - a. the customer's capacity to pay,
  - b. any arrears owing by the customer, and
  - c. the customer's expected energy consumption needs over the following 12 month period.
- 3. The requirements in paragraph 2 do not apply where the exempt customer has:
  - a. had two flexible payment arrangements 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
- 4. 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. Days in the billing period.
  - i. 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.
  - j. 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.
  - k. The amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the meter reading period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours. For gas, consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied (these must be the

same as those applied by the retailer from whom the exempt person purchases gas for the site).

- 1. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
- m. The basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated.
- n. 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.
- o. Details of the available payment methods.
- p. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

#### Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An 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. An 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 a 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 a customer's bill is based on an estimation, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

#### **Condition 5 - 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 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An 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. An 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 7 - Pricing**

- 1. An 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 of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer.
- 2. An exempt person must provide notice to the exempt customer of any change in the exempt customer tariff as soon as practicable, and no later than the exempt customer's next bill.
- 3. An 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.
- 4. An 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.
- 5. The requirements in paragraphs 1–4 do not apply where alternative pricing requirements apply under applicable state or territory legislation.

#### **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

- 1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, an 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 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.
  - c. The exempt person must offer the exempt customer time to pay the undercharged amount by instalments, over a period nominated by the customer (up to12 months, but no longer than the period of the undercharging).
- 2. Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, an 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:
  - a. 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.

- b. Where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.
- c. No interest is payable on the overcharged amount.
- d. Where the overcharging was the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to repaying the amount overcharged in the 12 months before the date on which the error was discovered.

#### **Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt customer informs the exempt person that it is 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 resources 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. not charge the exempt customer a late payment fee, and
  - d. not charge the exempt customer a security deposit.
- 2. Subject to Condition 9, an 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 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, has offered the exempt customer more flexible payment terms to pay any amount outstanding 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 the establishment of more flexible payment terms, 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 paragraph 2(b) of this condition, 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 or territory 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 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

- 1. An 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 (both inclusive) in any year.
- 2. For electricity, 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 the exempt customer has requested disconnection.

- 4. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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.
- 5. This condition does not apply where the energy supply agreement between the exempt person and exempt customer has been terminated.

# **Condition 11 - Reconnection of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt person has arranged for the disconnection of an exempt customer's premises and the exempt customer has within 10 business days of the disconnection:
  - a. if relevant, rectified the matter that led to the disconnection, and
  - b. made a request for reconnection, and
  - c. paid any charge for reconnection,

the exempt person must reconnect the premises (or, where required, arrange with the network operator to reconnect the premises) as soon as practicable.

# **Condition 12 - 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 relief scheme can only be claimed by the exempt person on behalf of the exempt customer, the exempt person must use their best endeavours to make a claim and, if successful, they must apply the rebate, concession or assistance to the exempt customer's bill.

# **Condition 13 - Choice of retailer**

1. The exempt person must not seek to prevent an exempt customer who is eligible under applicable state or territory legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice from electing to do so, whether by requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer or by unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

#### **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - 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, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

#### **Condition 16 - 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 a 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 17 - Continuity of supply**

1. An 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 18– Termination of energy supply agreement**

- 3. The arrangement through which an exempt person supplies energy to 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 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 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.
- 4. Termination of an arrangement to supply energy does not affect any rights or obligations that have already accrued under the agreement.

#### **Condition 19 - Maintaining records**

- 1. An 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.
  - 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.
  - g. The basis for determining any estimates of consumption for the purpose of billing where a meter read could not be obtained.

# **Class R3 Conditions**

Persons selling metered energy to residents for use within the limits of a retirement village that they own, occupy or operate, where the relationship between the person and the resident is governed by retirement village legislation

[This class will be closed to new entrants from 1 January 2015]

An exemption is registrable for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of energy to residents where:

- 1. the energy is used for premises within the limits of a site owned, occupied or operated by the person, and
- 2. the premises are separately metered, and
- 3. the relationship between the person and the resident is governed by retirement village legislation, and
- 4. the sale of energy commenced prior to 1 January 2015.

# Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to exempt customers by exempt persons covered by the Class R3 registrable exemption.

# **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

#### **Condition 2 - Information provision**

- 1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/residency of the following:
  - a. any right of the exempt customer, under state or territory 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 they 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, and
  - 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 or territory 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 a gas or electricity fault or emergency.
- 2. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/residency, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.
- 3. Once the determination comes into force in the relevant state or territory, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable but no later than three months after the determination is in force in the relevant state or territory.

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. An exempt person must offer flexible payment options (in relation to the sale of energy) to an exempt customer who has identified themselves as being in financial difficulty. Flexible payment options may include arrangements for payment by periodic instalments (bill smoothing) having regard to:
  - a. the customer's capacity to pay,
  - b. any arrears owing by the customer, and

- c. the customer's expected energy consumption needs over the following 12 month period.
- 3. The requirements in paragraph 2 do not apply where the exempt customer has:
  - a. had two flexible payment arrangements 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
- 4. 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. Days in the billing period.
  - i. 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.
  - j. 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.
  - k. The amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the meter reading period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours. For gas, consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied (these must be the same as those applied by the retailer from whom the exempt person purchases gas for the site).
  - 1. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
  - m. The basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated.
  - n. 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.
  - o. Details of the available payment methods.
  - p. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

#### Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An 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. An 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 a 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 a customer's bill is based on an estimation, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

# **Condition 5 - 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 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An 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. An 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 7 - Pricing**

1. An 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 of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer.

- 2. An exempt person must provide notice to the exempt customer of any change in the exempt customer tariff as soon as practicable, and no later than the exempt customer's next bill.
- 3. An 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.
- 4. An 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.
- 5. The requirements in paragraphs 1–4 do not apply where alternative pricing requirements apply under applicable state or territory legislation.

#### **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

- 1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, an 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 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.
  - c. The exempt person must offer the exempt customer time to pay the undercharged amount by instalments, over a period nominated by the customer (up to12 months, but no longer than the period of the undercharging).
- 2. Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, an 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:
  - a. 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.
  - b. Where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.
  - c. No interest is payable on the overcharged amount.
  - d. Where the overcharging was the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to repaying the amount overcharged in the 12 months before the date on which the error was discovered.

#### Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply

- 1. Where an exempt customer informs the exempt person that it is 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 resources 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. not charge the exempt customer a late payment fee, and
  - d. not charge the exempt customer a security deposit.
- 2. Subject to Condition 9, an 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 has not paid a bill by the pay-by date or has not adhered to the terms of a payment plan, and:
  - d. 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, has offered the exempt customer more flexible payment terms to pay any amount outstanding and has restated the forms of assistance available if the non-payment is due to financial difficulty, and
  - e. following non-payment by the date specified in the reminder notice, and failure to comply with more flexible payment terms, 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
  - f. 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
  - g. 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 paragraph 2(b) of this condition, 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 or territory 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 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

- 1. An 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 (both inclusive) in any year.
- 2. For electricity, 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 the exempt customer has requested disconnection.
- 4. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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 11 - Reconnection of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt person has arranged for the disconnection of an exempt customer's premises and the exempt customer has within 10 business days of the disconnection:
  - a. if relevant, rectified the matter that led to the disconnection, and

- b. made a request for reconnection, and
- c. paid any charge for reconnection,

the exempt person must reconnect the premises (or, where required, arrange with the network operator to reconnect the premises) as soon as practicable.

# **Condition 12 - 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 relief scheme can only be claimed by the exempt person on behalf of the exempt customer, the exempt person must use their best endeavours to make a claim and, if successful, they must apply the rebate, concession or assistance to the exempt customer's bill.

# **Condition 13 - Choice of retailer**

1. The exempt person must not seek to prevent an exempt customer who is eligible under applicable state or territory legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice from electing to do so, whether by requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer or by unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

# **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - 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, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

# **Condition 16 - 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 a 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 17 - Continuity of supply**

1. An 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 18 – Termination of energy supply agreement**

- 1. The arrangement through which an exempt person supplies energy to 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 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 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 19 - Maintaining records**

- 1. An 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.
  - 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.
  - g. The basis for determining any estimates of consumption for the purpose of billing where a meter read could not be obtained.

# **Class R4 Conditions**

Persons selling metered energy to residents for use in premises within the limits of a caravan park, residential park or manufactured home estate site that they own, occupy or operate, where the premises are the principal place of residence for the resident

Note—In practice, persons operating these sites may sell energy to both short term holidaymakers and residents whose principal place of residence is within the site. Where this occurs, Class D3 will apply to the sale of energy to short term holidaymakers, and Class R4 will apply to the sale of energy to residents whose principal place of residence is within the site.

An exemption is registrable for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of energy to residents where:

- 1. the energy is used for premises within the limits of a caravan park, residential park or manufactured home estate site owned, occupied or operated by the person, and
- 2. the premises are separately metered, and
- 3. the premises are the resident's principal place of residence.

For the purposes of this exemption, a reference to a 'principal place of residence' means the primary premises that a person inhabits. It does not matter what kind of dwelling it is, as long as it is where the person lives most of the time.

# Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to exempt customers by exempt persons covered by the Class R4 registrable exemption.

# **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

# **Condition 2 - Information provision**

1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/residency of the following:

- a. any right of the exempt customer, under state or territory 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 they 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, and
  - 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 or territory 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 a gas or electricity fault or emergency.
- 2. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/residency, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.
- 3. Once the determination comes into force in the relevant state or territory, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable but no later than three months after the determination is in force in the relevant state or territory.

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. An exempt person must offer flexible payment options (in relation to the sale of energy) to an exempt customer who has identified themselves as being in financial difficulty.

Flexible payment options may include arrangements for payment by periodic instalments (bill smoothing) having regard to:

- a. the customer's capacity to pay,
- b. any arrears owing by the customer, and
- c. the customer's expected energy consumption needs over the following 12 month period.
- 3. The requirements in paragraph 2 do not apply where the exempt customer has:
  - a. had two flexible payment arrangements 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
- 4. 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. Days in the billing period.
  - i. 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.
  - j. 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.
  - k. The amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the meter reading period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours. For gas, consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied (these must be the same as those applied by the retailer from whom the exempt person purchases gas for the site).
  - 1. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
  - m. The basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated.

- n. 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.
- o. Details of the available payment methods.
- p. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

### **Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills**

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An 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. An 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 a 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 a customer's bill is based on an estimation, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

### **Condition 5 - 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 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An 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. An 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 7 - Pricing**

- 1. An 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 of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer.
- 2. An exempt person must provide notice to the exempt customer of any change in the exempt customer tariff as soon as practicable, and no later than the exempt customer's next bill.
- 3. An 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.
- 4. An 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.
- 5. The requirements in paragraphs 1–4 do not apply where alternative pricing requirements apply under applicable state or territory legislation.

### **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

- 1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, an 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 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.
  - c. The exempt person must offer the exempt customer time to pay the undercharged amount by instalments, over a period nominated by the customer (up to12 months, but no longer than the period of the undercharging).
- 2. Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, an 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:
  - a. 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.
  - b. Where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.

- c. No interest is payable on the overcharged amount.
- d. Where the overcharging was the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to repaying the amount overcharged in the 12 months before the date on which the error was discovered.

#### **Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt customer informs the exempt person that it is 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 resources 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. not charge the exempt customer a late payment fee, and
  - d. not charge the exempt customer a security deposit.
- 2. Subject to Condition 9, an 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 has not paid a bill by the pay-by date or has not adhered to the terms of a payment plan, and:
  - d. 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, has offered the exempt customer more flexible payment terms to pay any amount outstanding and has restated the forms of assistance available if the non-payment is due to financial difficulty, and
  - e. following non-payment by the date specified in the reminder notice, and failure to comply with more flexible payment terms, 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
  - f. 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
  - g. 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 paragraph 2(b) of this condition, 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 or territory 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 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

- 1. An 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 (both inclusive) in any year.
- 2. For electricity, 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 the exempt customer has requested disconnection.
- 4. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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 11 - Reconnection of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt person has arranged for the disconnection of an exempt customer's premises and the exempt customer has within 10 business days of the disconnection:
  - a. if relevant, rectified the matter that led to the disconnection, and
  - b. made a request for reconnection, and
  - c. paid any charge for reconnection,

the exempt person must reconnect the premises (or, where required, arrange with the network operator to reconnect the premises) as soon as practicable.

#### **Condition 12 - 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 relief scheme can only be claimed by the exempt person on behalf of the exempt customer, the exempt person must use their best endeavours to make a claim and, if successful, they must apply the rebate, concession or assistance to the exempt customer's bill.

#### **Condition 13 - Choice of retailer**

1. The exempt person must not seek to prevent an exempt customer who is eligible under applicable state or territory legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice from electing to do so, whether by requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer or by unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

#### **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - 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, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

### **Condition 16 - 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 a 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 17 - Continuity of supply**

1. An 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 18 – Termination of energy supply agreement**

- 1. The arrangement through which an exempt person supplies energy to 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 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 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 19 - Maintaining records**

- 1. An 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.
  - 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.
  - g. The basis for determining any estimates of consumption for the purpose of billing where a meter read could not be obtained.

# **Class R5 Conditions**

# Persons selling metered energy to large customers

An exemption is registrable for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of metered energy to large customers.

# Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to exempt customers by exempt persons covered by the Class R5 registrable exemption.

# **Condition 1 - Information provision**

1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy that a retailer of last resort will not be automatically appointed for the customer if the seller ceases to supply energy.

# **Condition 13 - Choice of retailer**

1. The exempt person must not seek to prevent an exempt customer who is eligible under applicable state or territory legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice from electing to do so, whether by requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer or by unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

No further conditions are applicable to this class.

# **Class R6 Conditions**

# Persons selling metered energy to small business customers at a site or premises adjacent to a site that they own, occupy or operate

An exemption is registrable for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of energy to small customers where:

- 1. the energy is used for premises adjacent to to a site owned, occupied or operated by the person, and
- 2. the premises are separately metered, and
- 3. the cost of the energy is recouped in accordance with the terms of the lease between the small customer and the person,
- 4. the sale of energy commenced prior to 1 January 2015.

# Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to exempt customers by exempt persons covered by the Class R1 registrable exemption.

# **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

# **Condition 2 - Information provision**

- 1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/occupancy of the following:
  - a. any right of the exempt customer, under state or territory 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 may not receive the same protections as it would if they 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, and

- 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located
- d. the conditions applicable to the exemption that the exempt person is operating under
- e. the energy tariffs and all associated fees and charges that will apply to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of energy
- f. contact numbers in the event of a gas or electricity fault or emergency.
- 2. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/occupancy, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.
- 3. Once the determination comes into force in the relevant state or territory, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable but no later than three months after the determination is in force in the relevant state or territory.

#### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. 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. Days in the billing period.
  - i. 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.
  - j. 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.
  - k. The amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the meter reading period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours. For gas,

consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied (these must be the same as those applied by the retailer from whom the exempt person purchases gas for the site).

- 1. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
- m. The basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated.
- n. Details of the available payment methods.
- o. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

#### Condition 4 - Estimation as basis for bills

- 1. An exempt person must use best endeavours to ensure that the meter for each exempt customer is read and used as the basis for any bill issued.
- 2. An 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. An 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 a 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 a customer's bill is based on an estimation, this must be clearly stated on the exempt customer's bill.

### **Condition 5 - 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 6 - Receipts**

- 1. An 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. An 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 7 - Pricing**

1. Where access to retail contestability is not available,<sup>3</sup> an 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 of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer.

# **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

- 1. Where an exempt customer has been undercharged, an 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 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.
  - c. The exempt person must offer the exempt customer time to pay the undercharged amount by instalments, over a period nominated by the customer (up to12 months, but no longer than the period of the undercharging).
- 2. Where an exempt customer has been overcharged, an 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:
  - a. 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.
  - b. Where the amount overcharged is less than \$25, the exempt person must credit that amount to the exempt customer's next bill.
  - c. No interest is payable on the overcharged amount.
  - d. Where the overcharging was the result of the exempt customer's fault or unlawful act or omission, the exempt person is limited to repaying the amount overcharged in the 12 months before the date on which the error was discovered.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This condition applies if immediate access to FRC is not available, that is, where the customer must pay for and negotiate a new connection and pay for associated infrastructure.

### Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply

- 1. Subject to Condition 9, an 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 lease has expired 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 advising the exempt customer that the exempt person may offer them more flexible payment terms to pay any amount outstanding, and
    - ii. following non-payment by the date specified in the reminder notice, or the establishment of more flexible payment terms, 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.
- 2. Where an exempt customer is disconnected in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this condition, 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.
- 3. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

- 1. An 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. 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
- c. 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 (both inclusive) in any year.
- 2. For electricity, 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 the exempt customer has requested disconnection.
- 4. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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.
- 5. This condition does not apply where the exempt customer's lease has expired.

#### **Condition 11 - Reconnection of supply**

- 1. Where an exempt person has arranged for the disconnection of an exempt customer's premises and the exempt customer has within 10 business days of the disconnection:
  - a. if relevant, rectified the matter that led to the disconnection, and
  - b. made a request for reconnection, and
  - c. paid any charge for reconnection,

the exempt person must reconnect the premises (or, where required, arrange with the network operator to reconnect the premises) as soon as practicable.

### **Condition 12 – Concessions and rebates**

#### *Not applicable*

### **Condition 13 - Choice of retailer**

1. The exempt person must not seek to prevent an exempt customer who is eligible under applicable state or territory legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice

from electing to do so, whether by requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer or by unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

#### **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - Dispute resolution**

- 1. In the event of a dispute concerning the sale of energy to any exempt customer, and in the absence of a determination of the relevant tenancy tribunal, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

#### **Condition 16 – Life support customers**

#### *Not applicable*

#### **Condition 17 - Continuity of supply**

1. An 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 18 – Termination of energy supply agreement**

- 1. The arrangement through which an exempt person supplies energy to 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 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 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 19 - Maintaining records**

- 1. An 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.
  - 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.
  - g. The basis for determining any estimates of consumption for the purpose of billing where a meter read could not be obtained.

# **Class R7 Conditions**

Persons selling unmetered energy to small business customers at a site or premises adjacent to a site that they own, occupy or operate, where the selling commenced prior to the commencement of the National Energy Retail Law.

Note—This class applies to the selling of energy by landlords, lessors or management corporations where that sale of energy is unmetered. This class is closed to new entrants from the commencement of the National Energy Retail Law, at which time the AER will not grant an exemption unless the site is individually sub metered.

An exemption is registrable for persons falling within the following class:

Persons engaged in the selling of energy to small customers where:

- 1. the energy is used for premises within the limits of a site owned, occupied or operated by the person, and
- 2. the person selling the energy is a landlord, lessor or management corporation (or similar entity), and
- 3. the cost of the energy is recouped in accordance with the terms of the lease between the small customer and the person,
- 4. the sale of energy commenced prior to the commencement of the National Energy Retail Law.

# Conditions

The following conditions apply under rule 153 to the sale of energy to exempt customers by exempt persons covered by the Class R1 registrable exemption.

# **Condition 1 – Obligation to supply**

- 1. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer who meets the criteria for this exemption class, except in accordance with relevant disconnection provisions.
- 2. An exempt person cannot refuse to sell energy to a customer on the basis that the customer owes the exempt person outstanding amounts from a previous account. The exempt person can include in a new account any outstanding amounts owed on a previous account (except where the unpaid amounts are for other premises for which the customer has an ongoing contract with the exempt person).

# **Condition 2 - Information provision**

1. The exempt person must advise exempt customers, in writing, at the start of their tenancy/occupancy of the following:

- a. any right of the exempt customer, under state or territory 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 may not receive the same protections as it would if they 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, and
  - 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located
- d. the conditions applicable to the exemption that the exempt person is operating under
- e. the energy tariffs and all associated fees and charges that will apply to the exempt customer in relation to the sale of energy
- f. contact numbers in the event of a gas or electricity fault or emergency.
- 2. In addition to the requirement to provide the information at the commencement of the exempt customer's tenancy/occupancy, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by the exempt person at any time on request by the exempt customer or the AER.
- 3. Once the determination comes into force in the relevant state or territory, the information set out in paragraph 1 of this condition must be provided by an exempt person to existing exempt customers as soon as practicable but no later than three months after the determination is in force in the relevant state or territory.

### **Condition 3 - Billing and payment arrangements**

- 1. An exempt person must ensure that bills are issued to each exempt customer at least once every three months.
- 2. 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 pay-by date for the bill.
  - e. Date of the current meter reading or estimate, as applicable.
  - f. Days in the billing period.

- g. 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.
- h. 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.
- i. The amount of energy consumed, or estimated to be consumed, in the meter reading period. For electricity, consumption must be shown in kilowatt hours. For gas, consumption must be shown in cubic metres and mega joules and must note the heating value and pressure conversion factor that has been applied (these must be the same as those applied by the retailer from whom the exempt person purchases gas for the site).
- j. Tariffs, fees and charges applicable to the exempt customer.
- k. The basis on which tariffs, fees and charges are calculated.
- 1. Details of the available payment methods.
- m. A telephone number for account inquiries and complaints.

#### **Condition 4 – Estimation as a basis for bills**

#### *Not applicable*

#### **Condition 5 - 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 6 – Receipts**

#### *Not applicable*

## **Condition 7 – Pricing**

1. Where access to choice of retailer is not available,<sup>4</sup> an 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 of energy directly to the premises of the exempt customer

### **Condition 8 – Undercharging and overcharging**

*Not applicable* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This condition applies if immediate access to choice of retailer is not available, that is, where the customer must pay for and negotiate a new connection and pay for associated infrastructure.

### Condition 9 - Payment difficulties and disconnection or cessation of supply

- 1. Subject to Condition 6, an 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 lease has expired 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 advising the exempt customer that the exempt person may offer them more flexible payment terms to pay any amount outstanding, and
    - ii. following non-payment by the date specified in the reminder notice, or the establishment of more flexible payment terms, 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.
- 2. Where an exempt customer is disconnected in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this condition, 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.
- 3. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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 10 - When disconnection or cessation of supply is prohibited

- 1. An 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. 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
- c. 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 (both inclusive) in any year.
- 2. For electricity, 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 the exempt customer has requested disconnection.
- 4. This condition does not apply where state or territory 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.
- 5. This condition does not apply where the exempt customer's lease has expired.

# **Condition 11 – Reconnection of supply**

#### *Not applicable*

#### **Condition 12 – Concessions and rebates**

#### *Not applicable*

### **Condition 13 - Choice of retailer**

1. The exempt person must not seek to prevent an exempt customer who is eligible under applicable state or territory legislation to purchase energy from a retailer of their choice from electing to do so, whether by requiring the exempt customer to waive their ability to choose a retailer or by unreasonably hindering any metering or network changes required to enable choice of retailer.

### **Condition 14 - Contact details**

1. An exempt person must provide a means of contact for account inquiries and complaints which 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 15 - Dispute resolution**

- 1. In the event of a dispute concerning the sale of energy to any exempt customer, and in the absence of a determination of the relevant tenancy tribunal, 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 or territory in which the exempt customer is located, if applicable.

# **Condition 16 – Life support customers**

### Not applicable

### **Condition 17 - Continuity of supply**

2. An 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 18- Termination of energy supply agreement

- 1. The arrangement through which an exempt person supplies energy to 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 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 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 19 - Maintaining records**

- 1. An exempt person must maintain records of the following for each of its exempt customers:
  - a. The name of the exempt customer.
  - b. Copies of any bills issued for the previous 12 months.