



8 April 2020

Mr. Mark Feather  
General Manager, Policy and Performance  
Australian Energy Regulator  
GPO Box 520  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Submitted by email to: [DMO@aer.gov.au](mailto:DMO@aer.gov.au)

Dear Mr Feather,

**Draft Determination: COVID-19 impacts on Default Market Offer Price 2020-2021**

Locality Planning Energy ('LPE') welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) in relation to the potential COVID-19 impacts on the Draft Determination on the Default Market Offer (DMO) Price for 2020-21 as published on 10 February 2020. LPE is a small, but growing business based on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

As I am sure you can appreciate, the current global crisis is presenting many challenges for the energy sector, our business, our customers and the Australian community, with the true cost and impacts of COVID-19 likely to be felt for many years to come. We continue to be committed to supporting our customers during this extremely challenging time.

**Smart Metering Service Fees:**

The ongoing metering service fees incurred by Electricity retailers has not been considered in this cost assessment model. Ongoing Metering services costs incurred can range from \$73 to \$150 per annum and in some instances can exceed this range when customers require two smart meters. This alone represents 5-10% of the total proposed Energex 'Residential without CL' DMO Price. There are then additional variable costs incurred with meter installations that have also not been included.

LPE would like to see the metering service costs included within the cost assessment model.

Based on the concern we have outlined above LPE's strong recommendation is to leave rates as they are until 2021-2022 review cycle.

If you have any questions in relation to this submission, please contact Emma Mills, Head of Compliance, on [emills@localityenergy.com.au](mailto:emills@localityenergy.com.au) or 0425855973.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Glanville', written over a light blue circular watermark.

Damien Glanville  
Chief Executive Officer