

**Submission to the Australian Energy Regulator  
Re: Electricity Distributors AMI Charges Revision Application**

This submission reflects my views that the proposed introduction of a manual reading charge to apply to customers who have retained a non-AMI meter is unwarranted.

**Key Issues of concern**

Previous to the introduction of AMI (Smart) Meters consumers received a Service to Property Charge a proportion of which covered the cost of manual meter reading; with the introduction of Smart Meters I was advised by my energy retailer and I quote “the description of metering charges has changed because it includes both **historic metering costs** and the new meter upgrade costs”.

Therefore with the introduction of AMI (Smart) Meters whilst the description had changed and AMI (Smart) Meter fees had been introduced historic metering fees remained in place. As such any attempt by Energy Distributors is tantamount to price gouging and double charging and should a manual metering charge be allowed a review by the ACCC is warranted.

Those consumers who have declined an AMI (Smart) Meter are already being forcibly financially exploited by paying for the AMI (Smart) Meter system.

For the proposed manual reading charge for non-AMI meters to be justifiably introduced the AMI Meter charge as currently applied to customers must be removed.

Additionally customers are able to phone in their meter reads thereby negating any need for a regular manual meter read as only one annual read is required. As such any charge for manual meter reading should only be based on the instance of a manual meter reader actually attending a property.

Sheriden Tate