



STOPPING THE PRICE GOUGING

The Australian Government is taking action to protect customers from high power prices and the uncompetitive practices of the energy companies.

LEGISLATION

- The Government will introduce legislation to implement a strong regime to crack down on poor market practices.
- The legislation will:
 - empower the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to recommend a range of enforcement remedies where unacceptable outcomes have been identified
 - empower the Treasurer to order the divestiture of assets on advice from the ACCC (as a last resort)
 - support the COAG Energy Council agenda through Commonwealth legislation if required.

CHANGES TO TAX ALLOWANCE CALCULATIONS

- The Government has requested the AER review the approach to estimating tax for regulated energy networks. The Government will action the AER's advice, due in December 2018, to ensure tax allowance calculations reflect the tax network companies actually pay.

COAG ENERGY COUNCIL

- The Government will progress measures through the COAG Energy Council to:
 - introduce a market cap on generation ownership to prevent further concentration in the market and increase competition
 - increase transparency in the wholesale contract market to make it easier for new entrants and smaller retailers to compete effectively in the retail market
 - introduce higher penalties for breaches of the National Electricity Law and related laws, of up to \$10 million
 - increase the AER's powers to investigate market manipulation and impose appropriate remedies.

CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET RULES

- The Government will propose rule changes to the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) to better protect customers, including placing limits on the penalties customers can face when they don't pay on time.