



RIS Ref: DEWS442-0117

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16 February 2017

Mr David Puzniak  
Senior Policy Officer  
Energy Industry Policy  
Department of Energy and Water Supply  
Floor 8, 1 William Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Puzniak

**Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement: Queensland's Statutory Voltage Limits**

Thank you for your inquiry of 10 February 2017 seeking advice on the adequacy of Queensland's Statutory Voltage Limits Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

The Consultation RIS details the Department of Energy and Water Supply's (the Department) proposed amendments to the *Electricity Regulation (Qld) 2006* (the Regulation) to change the statutory voltage limits.

The Department explains in its Consultation RIS that the increasing occurrence of *voltage rise* on Queensland's electricity network is caused by an increase in electricity export levels from embedded solar photovoltaics (PV).

To balance the safe and reliable operation of the network with an expected increase in the uptake of solar PV, the Department investigated and assessed the impacts on affected stakeholders of amending the Regulation to adopt the international best practice standard of '230 volt standard + ten per cent/-six per cent' (the standard). The RIS assesses the impacts of the following options:

- option 1: retain the existing voltage requirements
- option 2: adopt the standard with full compliance in seven years (broadly in line with distributors' standard operation and maintenance schedules)
- option 3: adopt the standard with full compliance in three years (distributors to develop and implement a dedicated program to fast track implementation).

The Department's preferred option is option 3, which the Department considers will better support government policy objectives and provide a greater net benefit overall.

The Commission has assessed the Department's Consultation RIS, and considers it adequate for the purpose of public consultation. Consultation with stakeholders will assist in further development of the proposal, including verifying the analysis provided and whether the proposal will have any further unforeseen adverse impacts.

Consistent with the Queensland Government's Guide to Better Regulation (Guidelines), the final Consultation RIS and this letter of adequacy will be published on the Commission's website once the RIS is approved for release. After consultation has concluded, a Decision RIS incorporating the consideration of public comments should be provided to the Commission for assessment before the matter is finally referred to Cabinet for decision.

Please contact Dominic O'Neill, Senior Analyst on (07) 3015 5164 if you require any additional information or guidance in relation to the above comments or the Guidelines in general.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Wood', with a long diagonal stroke crossing through the beginning of the name.

Kim Wood  
Principal Commissioner