



Queensland
Government

Department of
Energy and Public Works

Our Ref: MN07526-2021

08 NOV 2021

Mr Shane King MP
Chair, Transport and Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr King

Thank you for your letter of 26 October 2021 requesting an update on the progress of the departmental review of Queensland's state-based energy legislation.

The Department of Energy and Public Works (the department) is currently undertaking a broad review of Queensland's energy laws, including the *Electricity Act 1994*, the *Gas Supply Act 2003* and the *Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006* and their subordinate legislation.

The Electricity Regulation 2006, the Energy and Water Ombudsman Regulation 2007 and the Gas Supply Regulation 2007 have previously been exempted from expiry on the basis that their substantive legislation was under review by the department. These regulations are due to expire on 31 August 2022.

Extensive consultation on options to reform Queensland's energy laws was completed in 2020 to inform recommendations to government on preferred legislative changes. However, external factors, including the impact of COVID-19, have delayed progression of these issues to government. Feedback from stakeholders on broader reform options are now being considered in light of a post-COVID energy market to determine what law changes may be needed to support Queensland energy market conditions and customer needs. The department is also continuing to liaise with national market bodies and regulators in relation to the impacts of the pandemic on customers and the energy market more broadly.

It is anticipated that a broader legislative package of energy reforms to improve the efficiency and operation of Queensland's state-based energy laws will be progressed in 2022 alongside more customer-facing reforms that may be developed through the Ministerial Energy Council and the development of Queensland's 10 year energy plan. The department is also working towards revising and remaking the *Electricity Regulation 2006* and the *Gas Supply Regulation 2007* as part of this legislative package.

A Sunset Review of the Energy and Water Ombudsman Regulation 2007 was completed in April 2021 and the Office of Best Practice Regulation has advised that no further regulatory impact analysis is required. The department plans to remake this regulation in early 2022.

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +617 3008 2934
Website www.epw.qld.gov.au

Additional amendments to the Regulation are also being prepared to extend the Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland's (EWOQ) jurisdiction to allow residential customers in embedded networks access to EWOQ's dispute resolution services. These amendments are also expected to be in place by early 2022.

I hope this information answers your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that ends in a small loop.

Paul Martyn
Director-General