



Better Regulation Update – September 2013

Recap

August & September

- **Consumer engagement:** submissions on draft guideline closed 16 August; 26 submissions received.
- **Power of choice:** final RIT-D and application guidelines published 23 August.
- **Expenditure assessment:** released draft guideline 9 August; submissions on economic benchmarking templates closed 16 August; held stakeholder workshop on 2 September
- **Expenditure incentives:** released draft guideline 9 August.
- **Confidentiality:** released draft guideline 9 August.
- **Consumer reference group:** held second face to face meeting on 22 August.
- **Rate of return:** released draft guideline and held teleconference information session on 30 August.
- **Shared assets:** submissions on draft guideline closed 13 September.

Upcoming

September & October

- **Consumer reference group:** CRG meeting on 19 September.
- **Expenditure assessments:** submissions on draft guideline close 20 September; holding bilateral meetings with stakeholders; holding category analysis workshops on 23 (Hobart), 24 (Sydney), 25 (Adelaide), 26 (Melbourne), and 27 (Brisbane) September.
- **Expenditure incentives:** submissions on draft guideline close 20 September; holding bilateral meetings with stakeholders.
- **Confidentiality:** submissions on draft guideline close 20 September; holding bilateral meetings with stakeholders.
- **Rate of return:** holding stakeholder forum in early October; submissions on draft guideline close 11 October.

We've published all our draft guidelines along with the final Regulatory Investment Test for Distribution. Consultation on the draft guidelines has been more targeted than earlier in the year and will be wrapping up shortly. Our consultation is covered in this month's spotlight.

We also recently published a document called *Better Regulation: reform package update*. This has an overview of the program, the structure of the package, our consultation, and key decisions made to date. It follows on from our earlier May policy note *Better Regulation: an integrated package*. The reform package update is available here <http://tinyurl.com/qcp8j9l> and also on our Better Regulation web page.

Spotlight: consultation on our draft guidelines

Following the release of the draft rate of return guideline we held a one-hour information session presented by AER Chairman Andrew Reeves. Mr Reeves' speech is available on the rate of return webpage here <http://www.aer.gov.au/node/18859> along with answers to all questions asked during the session, including questions we did not have time to address. We'll announce details shortly about a forum for the draft rate of return guideline we'll hold in in early October.

Expenditure assessments have been consulting on their draft guideline and data templates. They held a forum on 2 September and will also be travelling across the country to hold category analysis workshops. These begin in Hobart next Monday 23 September, and end in Brisbane on Friday 27 September.

Our other workstreams are beginning to wrap up their consultation. Consultation on the consumer engagement was completed in August. Meanwhile expenditure incentives, confidentiality and shared assets have been holding bilateral meetings with stakeholders. We've also had extensive consultation with our consumer reference group on all the draft guidelines.

For more information in the lead up to our final guidelines contact the relevant workstream or check their webpage.