



## Better Regulation Update – April 2013

### Recap

#### March & April

- **Expenditure assessments:** six workshops held on category analysis and three on benchmarking techniques. Received 15 written submissions on the issues paper.
- **Service provider consumer engagement:** held three consumer forums in March.
- **Consumer reference group:** held second CRG meeting, a training session and subgroup meetings.
- **Confidentiality:** released issues paper 18 March. Held stakeholder forum on 4 April.
- **Expenditure incentives:** released issues paper 20 March.
- **Power of choice:** released information paper on demand management 26 March, and held stakeholder forum on 12 April.
- **Consumer challenge panel:** called for expressions of interest for Panel Members on 29 March.
- **Shared assets:** released issues paper 2 April.

### Upcoming

#### April & May

- **Expenditure assessments:** holding workshops on category analysis (8 and 16 May), benchmarking (30 April and 2, 7, 22 May) and a general workshop on 30 May. Holding a joint forum with expenditure incentives on 29 April.
- **Rate of return:** further consultation with stakeholders on action items coming out of February workshops. Releasing consultation paper end April/early May.
- **Expenditure incentives:** holding joint stakeholder forum on 29 April with expenditure assessments. Deadline for submissions on issues paper extended to close COB 10 May.
- **Shared assets:** submissions on issues paper close COB 17 May.
- **Confidentiality:** submissions on issues paper close COB 14 May.
- **Consumer reference group:** CRG meetings on 24 April and 23 May. Holding further subgroup meetings.
- **Consumer challenge panel:** expressions of interest for Panel Members close 29 April.

We've reached a busy time in Better Regulation with all our workstreams engaged in consultation. We've released issues papers for shared assets, Power of Choice and confidentiality, with the latter two having recently held forums. We are on track to release our further consultation paper on rate of return towards the end of April to early May. Meanwhile our service provider customer engagement workstream and consumer reference group continue to have busy meeting schedules.

Following our release of an issues paper on the expenditure incentives guideline we announced a joint forum on 29 April with our incentives and assessments workstreams. Here we'll discuss the two guidelines and the interaction between them. See our website for more information and instructions on how to register to attend.

*What do you think of our consultation on Better Regulation? We've set up a survey to hear your feedback*  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TDY99QD>

We are now calling for expressions of interest (EOIs) for members of our Consumer Challenge Panel (CCP), which is the subject of this month's spotlight.

### Spotlight: Consumer Challenge Panel

We're establishing the CCP to help us better incorporate consumers' interests in our decisions. This was a key part of the Council of Australian Governments' energy reform agenda agreed on 7 December 2012. We'll appoint members to the CCP by 1 July 2013 and they'll provide advice to us as part of our assessment and consideration of network businesses' regulatory proposals. More information on the role of the CCP and its members is on our website at <http://www.aer.gov.au/about-us/consumer-challenge-panel>.

If you wish to apply for the CCP the documentation can be found on AusTender at <http://tinyurl.com/d3pgd36>. You will have to register on AusTender as a user to download the EOI documentation. If you have any issues registering or downloading the documentation please contact the AusTender helpdesk on 1300 651 698. EOIs close 29 April 2013.

Further queries regarding the EOI process should be directed to Sarah Coles by phone on (02) 6243 1079, or email at [rfo@acc.gov.au](mailto:rfo@acc.gov.au).