

# Broadmeadows Progress Association

Hume / Moreland



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Australian Energy Regulator  
email amicharges2015@aer.gov.au

## **Submission To The Proposed 2015 AMI Charges**

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the members of the Broadmeadows Progress Association I wish to make the following submission opposing the introduction of an additional fee for Manual Meter Readings.

**1. Customers should have the right, if they so choose, to read their meters at agreed time intervals and forward the readings to the relevant power company. This would reduce the number of times need to manually read meters to once per year, as required by regulations.**

This practice is currently in use by general agreement between customers and various retailers.

This fact is illustrated by the following statement from AGL's web site.

### **With My AGL Monthly Bill You Can:**

- **Select the day of the month your bills will be issued<sup>#</sup>**
- **Have regular, smaller, easier to manage payments, and**
- **Enter your own meter reads.**

The ability to take their own meter readings should be a general customer right.

**2. Additional fee charges for manual meter readings should not occur as this charge already exists.**

When the AMI rollout commenced in 2010 all customer's analogue meters were manually read and the cost for this was part of the customer's service charge.

The need for manual readings has gradually decreased, as the number of smart meters with their remote reading component, increased. The cost for manual meter readings should therefore slowly decreasing.

But the supply charge and the AMI charge have increased each year and there has not been any indication or notification of a removal of the manual reading charges for customers with smart meters.

It can only be concluded that this charge remains in the supply charge or has been absorbed into the AMI charge.

Either way the charge for manual readings already exist.

It is unnecessary and fraudulent for distributors to now apply for an additional charge .

**3. An increase in the AMI charges should not be allowed.**

**It is four years since all customers started to pay for the capital outlay needed for the AMI rollout.**

**As the roll out is moving towards completion one would expect the need for new capital would decrease.**

**But to the contrary, the power companies are asking for an increase.**

**This suggests that the AMI charge is to be on going and therefore used for other purposes than setting up an AMI system.**

**There needs to be an explanation.**

**Until this is clarified to the customer the requested increases for the AMI charge should not be granted .**

**Yours sincerely  
John Rutherford  
Hon Secretary**