

8<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Chief Executive  
Queensland Competition Authority  
GPO Box 2257  
Brisbane Qld 4001.  
Fax: 07-3222 05999

Dear Mr Hall,

Re: Draft Decision: Capital Expenditure Pass-through Application from Energex Limited

The Centre for Credit and Consumer Law is an academic centre, hosted by Griffith University Law School. The Centre for Credit and Consumer Law was established in 2004 to be a source of expertise, and a centre of excellence, on credit and consumer law issues. It has the overall objective of promoting the attainment of a fairer, safer, and more efficient marketplace, for small consumers and, in particular, for low income and vulnerable small end-users.

The Centre for Credit and Consumer Law, Griffith University is concerned that the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) has made a draft decision without due consideration for the flow on impact any increase in distribution prices will have on general affordability for consumers and in particular on the new Electricity Cost Index for adjustments to the Uniform Tariff and those customers who are on the Uniform Tariff.

While we understand the necessity for Energex to have financial capacity to undertake additional capital expenditure to meet its EDSD Review obligations equally there needs to be a balance between reliability and affordability for consumers. Hence there is a strong need for QCA to ensure that the Electricity Cost Index operates efficiently, effectively and fairly. We continue to support the suggestion from the Queensland Consumers Association in their original submission for a stakeholder workshop to be convened to consider the draft determination and associated submissions with a view to enabling more robust discussion with consumer organisations and other stakeholders on the information that has informed this decision which in QCA's own words will result in '...all customers [bearing] their fair share of associated costs' in exchange for '...acceptable network security.'

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bathgate', written in a cursive style.

Dr Tenzin Jane Bathgate

Senior research assistant, e-mail: [t.bathgate@griffith.edu.au](mailto:t.bathgate@griffith.edu.au)

Centre for Credit and Consumer Law, Griffith University