

Australian Capital Territory

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Energy Savings Target) Determination 2021

Disallowable instrument DI2021–162

made under the

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012, s 7 (Energy savings target)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Introduction

This explanatory statement relates to the Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Energy Savings Target) Determination 2021 (the Determination). It has been prepared in order to assist the reader of the Determination. It does not form part of the Determination and has not been endorsed by the Assembly.

This explanatory statement clarifies the intent of the Determination and must be read in conjunction with the Determination. It is not, and is not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Determination. What is written about a provision is not to be taken as an authoritative guide to the meaning of a provision, this being a task for the courts.

Overview

Section 7 of the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012* (the Act) provides that the Minister must determine a target for the total energy savings to be achieved by NERL retailers in a compliance period, expressed as a percentage of their total electricity sales in the ACT.

NERL retailers will apply the Energy Savings Target to their electricity sales to determine their obligation under the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme.

Section 10 of the Act provides that the Minister may determine eligible activities that NERL retailers may undertake to meet this obligation. This determination by the Minister includes a specific energy savings factor the activity is deemed to save over its lifetime, as counting towards a NERL retailer's obligation.

It is important to note that the Energy Savings Target determined for each compliance period reflects the total life-cycle energy savings of activities undertaken in a given year (rather than actual reductions in a year) as a percentage of a NERL retailer's own energy sales.

The Determination sets the energy savings target at 12.5 per cent, for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

The energy savings target has increased from the value set for the 2021 compliance period (which was set at 8.6 per cent). As required by section 7(2)(a) of the Act, the Determination will be made at least 6 months before the start of the compliance period on 1 January 2022.

The instrument does not engage human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

A regulatory impact statement has been prepared for the determination.

Clause Notes

Clause 1 names the instrument.

Clause 2 indicates the timing for commencement of the instrument.

Clause 3 provides that the Energy Savings Target is 12.5 per cent of total electricity sales for the period beginning on 1 January 2022 and ending on 31 December 2022.

This target has been determined based on detailed modelling of the energy savings opportunities that exist in the ACT, considering:

- Stocks of energy using equipment in the ACT; and
- Projections for energy efficiency improvements across the Territory under business-as-usual conditions.

This target has increased from the value set for the 2021 compliance period.

The anticipated average and maximum cost per MWh of abatement has also been considered in setting the target – as reflected in the shortfall penalty price provided for in section 22 of the Act and the Energy Saving Contribution provided for by section 11 of the Act.

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Energy Savings Target) Determination 2015 (No 1) (DI2015-268) and *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement (Energy Savings Target) Determination 2020 (No 1)* (DI2020-219) remain in effect to permit auditing compliance of the 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 compliance periods.