

26 October 2018

Media Release

A step towards a fairer energy market

The Federal Government's announcement of a package of measures to introduce a price safety net to stop consumers paying too much and to improve competition across electricity suppliers is a step towards a fairer energy market.

The Government's package includes:

- A default power price for all customers
- Increasing the ability of regulators to stop anti-competitive practices
- Requiring energy companies to invest in reliable energy suppliers to meet demand
- Investing in new power generators to create more reliable power generation across the network.

"These are all good proposals, however, the implementation must deliver sustainable reductions to electricity prices, a more reliable, efficient energy network for Australia, and a focus on renewable energy generation," said Suresh Manickam CEO NECA.

"We encourage the Government to invest in energy efficient programs and clean energy initiatives such as micro grids, built using renewable energy technology to reduce the incidence of black-outs.

"Educating and encouraging consumers to take up small-scale solar panels, battery storage systems and smart meters through grants or rebates will provide greater choice for consumers and maintain the downward pressure on electricity prices."

NECA will continue to work with other peak industry bodies in order to enhance synergies and seek funding opportunities to deliver the best possible outcomes for NECA members and Australian consumers.

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Notes for editors

1. *NECA is the peak industry body representing the interests of electrical and communications contractors Australia-wide.*
1. *Membership comprises over 5,000 contracting companies with over 50,000 employees.*
2. *NECA provides employment and ongoing skills development for over 4,000 apprentices Australia-wide.*
3. *The Australian Cablers Registration Service (ACRS) is a wholly owned and operated subsidiary of NECA.*
4. *Neca has a joint venture with NESS Super in NSW.*