

Essential News

Latest news from the Essential Services Commission
February 2025

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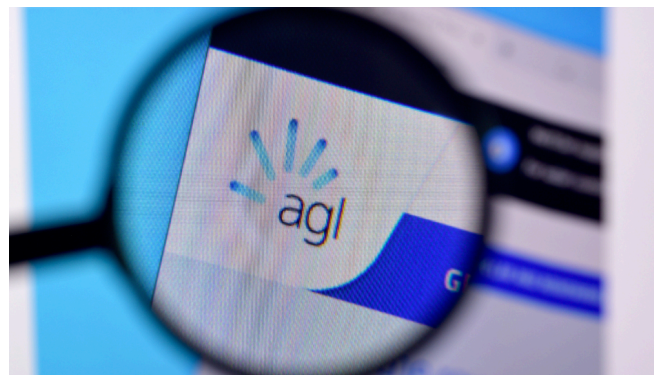
Welcome to Essential News, your regular update on key decisions, releases and events from the Essential Services Commission.



Enforcement action taken against Care for Environment

Accredited business Carers Club Australia Pty Ltd (trading as Care for Environment) was banned from the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program for alleged rule breaches.

The alleged breaches involved claiming



AGL fined \$924,600 for raising prices

Energy retailer AGL Sales Pty Ltd paid \$924,600 in penalties for raising prices for 15,845 residential and small business customers, allegedly in breach of Victoria's energy rules.

To give customers price certainty, the Energy

certificates for household energy efficient upgrades that did not occur.

We will take strong action against any business that breaks VEU rules, to protect the program's integrity and reputation.

[Learn more →](#)



Solar minimum feed-in tariffs for 2025-26

We have set minimum feed-in tariffs for 2025-26, which set the minimum amounts electricity retailers must pay solar customers for the electricity they export into the grid.

The flat feed-in tariff is 0.04 cents per kWh. The two time-varying feed-in tariffs range from 6.57 cents per kWh in the evening peak to 0.00 cents per kWh during the day.

The tariffs will apply from 1 July 2025 unless the Electricity Industry Act 2000 is amended to deregulate the setting of feed-in tariffs.

Retail Code of Practice limits tariff increases to once a year on designated dates.

These energy rules protecting customers from unexpected price increases are particularly important given cost-of-living pressures.

[Find out more →](#)



Transmission Company Victoria granted electricity transmission licence

Following an extensive consultation process, we approved Transmission Company Victoria Pty Ltd's (TCV) electricity transmission licence.

We appreciate the community's engagement on TCV's licence application and recognise the diverse views and broad interest throughout the application process.

Consideration of those diverse perspectives led to us placing several conditions on the licence.

As a licensee, TCV is now required to comply

[Read more →](#)



A conversation with Professor Shalanda Baker

We had the privilege of hosting an in-depth discussion with Professor Shalanda Baker, the University of Michigan's first Vice Provost for Sustainability and Climate Action.

Shalanda shared her insights on how justice can be embedded into the clean energy transition.

We thank Shalanda for sharing her expertise on climate resilience and how it intersects with energy and equity.

Image: from left to right Commissioner Elly Patira, Chairperson Gerard Brody, Professor Shalanda Baker and Australian Energy Regulator Chair, Clare Savage.

Artwork: *Dill-ba-din Balluk Blik – Protect Community and Country* © Simone Thomson 2023

with all the legal requirements of the licence, including the Land Access Code of Practice.

[Find out more →](#)



Rebecca Billings reappointed as commissioner for a second term

Rebecca Billings was reappointed as part-time commissioner at the Essential Services Commission for a second five-year term to serve alongside fellow commissioners, Chairperson Gerard Brody, Elly Patira and Jess Young.

Rebecca has over 25 years' experience providing economic, policy and operational advice to government across a range of regulatory systems, both as a consultant and a public servant.

[Read more →](#)

Commissioners lean into regulatory areas



We have recently implemented a 'sponsoring commissioners' model of engagement, that will see commissioners increasing their focus on specific areas of regulation. Our sponsoring commissioners are:

- Commissioner Patira – Victorian Energy Upgrades and local government
- Commissioner Billings – Water
- Commissioner Young – Energy and Port of Melbourne

Chairperson Gerard Brody will engage across the commission's areas of regulation and oversee the new model of engagement.

Engaging with stakeholders—whether consumers, industry representatives, or other relevant parties—helps us better understand concerns, gather valuable feedback and improve our decision-making.

This change reflects our commitment to effective stakeholder engagement. Our commissioners are looking forward to getting out and about and learning more.

Image: from left to right Commissioner Jess Young, Commissioner Elly Patira, Commissioner Rebecca Billings and Chairperson Gerard Brody.

Your consumer rights and the support available to you



Learn about your rights as a consumer in the sectors we regulate, including electricity and gas, local government, water, transport and the Victorian Energy Upgrades program.

[Find out more →](#)

Consultation

We're currently seeking feedback on the following:

- [Equis Energy \(Australia\) Projects \(MREH A2 AssetCo\) Pty Ltd application for electricity generation licence](#) - consultation closes 3 March 2025
- [Accident towing fees review 2025](#) - consultation closes 5 March 2025
- [Goorambat East Solar Farm Pty Ltd application for electricity generation licence](#) - consultation closes 17 March 2025

[View all current consultations →](#)

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