



Queensland

Electricity Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2011

Explanatory Notes for SL 2011 No. 254

made under the

Electricity Act 1994

General outline

Short title

This regulation may be cited as the *Electricity Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2011*.

Authorising law

Sections 263 and 266 of the *Electricity Act 1994*

Policy objectives and reasons for them

The policy objective of the regulation is to prescribe the current minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for incandescent lighting products, which remove the most inefficient products from the market reducing the energy use of Australian households.

Achievement of policy objectives

The regulation achieves its objectives by making administrative amendments to correct outdated references to energy efficiency standards

for selected lighting products, to prescribe the MEPS for particular lighting products as they are described in Australian Standard (AS) 4934.2.

The interim national standard for incandescent lighting products expired in April 2010. The final standard (the standard) prepared to replace the interim, and which was essentially unchanged, was published in April 2011. The outdated interim standard is referenced in the *Queensland Electricity Regulation 2006*, therefore minor changes are required to correct the references.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The amendment regulation is consistent with the main objectives of the *Electricity Act 1994*, and amends the *Electricity Regulation 2006* in relation to energy efficiency standards for lighting products.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The subordinate legislation is not inconsistent with any policy objectives of any other legislation.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

A national Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) conducted by the Commonwealth canvassed a number of possible alternative mechanisms to achieve improvements in lighting energy efficiency. However, none of the alternatives was expected to deliver the same improvements as can be achieved by regulation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The administrative amendments made by the regulation ensure the current Australian energy efficiency standards for selected lighting products apply in the State of Queensland. There are no identifiable costs associated with implementation.

The national RIS for the introduction of MEPS for inefficient lighting developed a number of different standards for separate lighting products, some of which were applied under this standard. The RIS stated that overall by 2020, Australian households are predicted to save 30,305 gigawatt hours (GWh), and deliver greenhouse emissions savings of 28.5

million tonnes. In Queensland, the predicted savings by 2020 are 665 GWh, emissions reduced by 578 kilo tonnes and \$73 million saved in lifecycle costs.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendment regulation has been drafted with due regard to the Fundamental Legislative Principles (FLPs) as outlined in the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*. There are no matters that are inconsistent with the FLPs.

Consultation

Industry was widely consulted at a national level throughout the RIS process regarding the broad policy issues of the proposed equipment energy efficiency provisions established by the standard.

The Commonwealth Office of Best Practice Regulation cleared the final decision RIS for the lighting products addressed under the standard in February 2009.

The regulatory proposal for the lighting products addressed under the standard received the approval of the then Ministerial Council on Energy on 18 August 2009.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
- 2 The administering agency is the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.