



FACT SHEET

Solar PPA exemptions and retail licensing review

The Minister for Energy has announced a review of the regulatory framework for retail electricity licensing and exemption activities (retail licensing review). The intent of the review will be to determine the most suitable form of regulation to ensure that all electricity consumers have adequate customer protections, regardless of the business model used for the delivery of electricity supplies.

While the retail licensing review is underway, the Minister for Energy will not be considering any current or future Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) retail licence exemption applications.

I have lodged an application for a SPPA retail licence exemption. What happens now?

The Minister for Energy will not be considering any current or future SPPA retail licence exemption applications. If you had an exemption application under consideration, the Minister for Energy will have written to you to provide notification of his decision and of the upcoming retail licensing review.

I have already received an SPPA retail licence exemption. Is it still valid?

Yes. Your existing SPPA retail licence exemption remains in place. The rights and associated terms and conditions applied to existing SPPA exemptions made under the Electricity Industry (Solar Power Purchase Agreement) Exemption Order 2016 will remain unchanged pending the outcome(s) of the retail licensing review.

When will the retail licensing review be undertaken?

The terms of reference for the review will be released by July 2019 and will outline the review process and expected timeframes.

Will I get the opportunity to have a say in the retail licensing review?

Yes. The review will be undertaken through a public consultation process and there will be opportunities for interested parties to directly engage with the Public Utilities Office.

I operate under another exemption made under the *Electricity Industry Act 2004*. What does this situation mean for me?

There has been no change to the Exemption Orders made under the:

- *Electricity Industry Exemption Order 2005.*
- *Electricity Industry (Caravan Park Operators) Exemption Order 2005.*

I have entered into a contract with an exempt SPPA provider. What does this situation mean for me?

The existing SPPA licence exemptions remain in place pending the outcome of the retail licensing review. Your contract with the SPPA retail licence exemption holder remains valid.

Public Utilities Office
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