



New South Wales

# Electricity and Gas Supply Legislation Amendment (Retail Price Disclosures and Comparisons) Bill 2010

## Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

## Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to establish a price disclosure and comparison scheme in relation to the supply of electricity and gas to small retail customers.

## Outline of provisions

**Clause 1** sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

## Schedule 1 Amendments

**Schedule 1.1 [1]** amends the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* to require a retail supplier of electricity to provide its pricing information in relation to the supply of electricity to and by small retail customers, on its website, to any person on request and to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (the *Tribunal*). The retail supplier must provide its pricing information free of charge and in accordance with any guidelines that are issued by the Minister for Energy. The Tribunal is to publish the

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Explanatory note

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pricing information on its website in a form that enables small retail customers to meaningfully compare the tariffs and charges of different retail suppliers of electricity. A retail supplier of electricity is required to ensure that its pricing information is accurate and up to date and is also required to include a link on its website to the Tribunal's website. The Minister for Energy is to review the scheme as soon as possible after 1 July 2013 and a report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament before 1 July 2014. **Schedule 1.2 [1]** amends the *Gas Supply Act 1996* to impose similar requirements in relation to the disclosure of pricing information that relates to the supply of natural gas to small retail customers.

**Schedule 1.1 [2]** and **Schedule 1.2 [2]** enable regulations to be made under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* and the *Gas Supply Act 1996* containing provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the proposed Act.

First print



New South Wales

# Electricity and Gas Supply Legislation Amendment (Retail Price Disclosures and Comparisons) Bill 2010

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New South Wales

# Electricity and Gas Supply Legislation Amendment (Retail Price Disclosures and Comparisons) Bill 2010

No. , 2010

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## A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* and the *Gas Supply Act 1996* with respect to the provision and publication of retail pricing information for electricity and gas.

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<b>The Legislature of New South Wales enacts:</b>	1
<b>1 Name of Act</b>	2
This Act is the <i>Electricity and Gas Supply Legislation Amendment (Retail Price Disclosures and Comparisons) Act 2010</i> .	3 4
<b>2 Commencement</b>	5
This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.	6

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<b>Schedule 1</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	1
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Electricity Supply Act 1995 No 94</b>	2
<b>[1]</b>	<b>Section 181A</b>	3
	Insert after section 181:	4
<b>181A</b>	<b>Retail price disclosure and comparison</b>	5
(1)	It is a condition of a retail supplier's licence that the retail supplier must provide its pricing information in relation to the supply of electricity to and by small retail customers:	6
	(a) at a readily accessible location on its website, and	7
	(b) to any person on request, and	8
	(c) to the Tribunal.	9
(2)	The Minister may issue guidelines relating to the kind of pricing information to be provided and the time at which and the manner and form in which that pricing information is to be provided. It is a condition of a retail supplier's licence that the retail supplier must provide its pricing information in accordance with any such guidelines that the Minister issues to it from time to time.	10
(3)	The Tribunal is to publish the pricing information, in a form that enables small retail customers to meaningfully compare the tariffs and charges of retail suppliers, on its website and in any other manner as it sees fit.	11
(4)	It is a condition of a retail supplier's licence that the retail supplier, when providing pricing information, must ensure that:	12
	(a) the information is accurate and up to date, and	13
	(b) the information is provided free of charge, and	14
	(c) the information provided on its website includes a clearly marked link to the Tribunal's website, or if the Tribunal directs that the link be to a specified part of the Tribunal's website, to that specified part.	15
(5)	The Minister is to review this section as soon as possible after 1 July 2013 to determine whether its policy objectives remain valid and whether its terms remain appropriate for securing those objectives. A report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament before 1 July 2014.	16
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(6)	In this section:	1
	<i>pricing information</i> means information of a kind (including, but is not limited to, any tariff, charge, fee, benefit, credit, discount, rebate, premium, term or condition) specified in the guidelines issued by the Minister under this section.	2 3 4 5
[2]	<b>Schedule 6 Savings, transitional and other provisions</b>	6
	Insert at the end of clause 1 (1):	7
	<i>Electricity and Gas Supply Legislation Amendment (Retail Price Disclosures and Comparisons) Act 2010</i> , but only to the extent that it amends this Act	8 9 10
1.2	<b>Gas Supply Act 1996 No 38</b>	11
[1]	<b>Section 76A</b>	12
	Insert before section 76:	13
76A	<b>Retail price disclosure and comparison</b>	14
(1)	It is a condition of a supplier's authorisation that the supplier must provide its pricing information in relation to the supply of natural gas to small retail customers:	15 16 17
	(a) at a readily accessible location on its website, and	18
	(b) to any person on request, and	19
	(c) to the Tribunal.	20
(2)	The Minister may issue guidelines relating to the kind of pricing information to be provided and the time at which and the manner and form in which that pricing information is to be provided. It is a condition of a supplier's authorisation that the supplier must provide its pricing information in accordance with any such guidelines that the Minister issues to it from time to time.	21 22 23 24 25 26
(3)	The Tribunal is to publish the pricing information, in a form that enables small retail customers to meaningfully compare the tariffs and charges of suppliers, on its website and in any other manner as it sees fit.	27 28 29 30
(4)	It is a condition of a supplier's authorisation that the supplier, when providing pricing information, must ensure that:	31 32
	(a) the information is accurate and up to date, and	33
	(b) the information is provided free of charge, and	34
	(c) the information provided on its website includes a clearly marked link to the Tribunal's website, or if the Tribunal	35 36



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directs that the link be to a specified part of the Tribunal's website, to that specified part.	1 2
(5) The Minister is to review this section as soon as possible after 1 July 2013 to determine whether its policy objectives remain valid and whether its terms remain appropriate for securing those objectives. A report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament before 1 July 2014.	3 4 5 6 7
(6) In this section: <i>pricing information</i> means information of a kind (including, but is not limited to, any tariff, charge, fee, benefit, credit, discount, rebate, premium, term or condition) specified in the guidelines issued by the Minister under this section.	8 9 10 11 12
<b>[2] Schedule 2 Savings, transitional and other provisions</b>	13
Insert at the end of clause 1 (1): <i>Electricity and Gas Supply Legislation Amendment (Retail Price Disclosures and Comparisons) Act 2010</i> , but only to the extent that it amends this Act	14 15 16 17