

Maximum electricity prices for embedded networks and other exempt sellers

Submission received via Engage Victoria on our consultation paper on maximum prices for embedded networks and other exempt sellers

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'Do you have any comments on the commission's consultation paper?'

"Whilst there should be a mandate that no charges are higher than the VDO, your proposal still does not go far enough. If a retailer (eg my retailer is Origin) has a lower offer available for a single household, then the same offer should be available to an apartment in an embedded network serviced by Origin. In other words, embedded network users should receive the same retail pricing that non-embedded-network customers can receive from the same retailer. Any refusal to offer this should be seen as the manipulation of a customer who has no ability to change retailers. This, of course, would only be where the meter is the right type, so ""smart meter"" plans may not be available to all customers for example.

Although your review states that it is ""unlikely to be materially different"" from standalone customers. Yet, often these were promoted to developers on the basis that they were in fact cheaper. At my previous residence, the provider was WinEnergy (now WinConnect). Their website <https://www.winconnect.com.au/services/embedded-networks/> today states that ""Embedded networks aggregate the energy consumed within a complex to a single point, enabling wholesale energy procurement. The WINconnect approach delivers benefits to developers, owners corporations, asset owners as well as the end consumer."" This flies in the face of claims made in your paper, and sounds like the providers are trying to protect their margins, literally at our expense.

Finally, as part of the state government's greenhouse emissions targets and plans, embedded customers should not be prevented from buying greenpower options that the same retailer offers to standalone customers. Again, Origin is preventing this from happening, locking me into using their coal-sourced power against my will and my ethics. A cynic may say that they are protecting their old generation assets that other members of the community now refuse to use. THIS MUST STOP."

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