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Dr Pat Walsh
Chairperson
Essential Services Commission of South Australia
GPO Box 2605
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Dear Dr Walsh

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Essential Services Commission of South Australia's (ESCOSA) *2011-14 Electricity Standing Contract Wholesale Cost Investigation Draft Standing Contract (Further Variation) Price Determination* (Draft Determination).

The Government remains committed to facilitating a competitive retail energy market whilst continuing to ensure there are sufficient protections for customers who remain on the regulated standing contract.

I welcome ESCOSA's Draft Determination which recommends a reduction in the Wholesale Electricity Cost (WEC) allowance and accordingly a reduction in the electricity prices paid by consumers which remain on the standing contract.

The Government acknowledges that market contracts already provide consumers with discounts on electricity prices and actively encourages consumers to use the ESCOSA's online Estimator Service to shop around for the best electricity price.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Yours sincerely



Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy

27th October 2012