

## The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,  
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage,  
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



DOC25/221380-1

Mr Andrew Nicholls  
Chief Executive Officer  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Nicholls

I write regarding the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) annual reviews of retail energy market performance and competition. These reviews provide an important benchmark to monitor competition and pricing in the NSW retail energy sector.

The market monitor role is particularly valuable at present for consideration of the increasingly complex products and plans offered to small customers.

In September 2024, the NSW Government launched its Consumer Energy Strategy: Powering our People and Communities, to help make it easier for households and businesses to access the energy saving technologies and services that will help reduce their energy bills and ease cost of living pressures. The Strategy included a commitment to require IPART to report on demand response and Virtual Power Plant (VPP) services of retailers in the annual energy retail market monitor report.

In line with IPART's reporting for 2023-24, I request that IPART once again include specific analysis about new energy retail offerings, such as VPPs and demand response, and how they have affected the performance and competitiveness of the NSW retail energy markets in the 2024-25 review. I anticipate being able to bring forward legislative reforms later this year to establish this requirement on an ongoing basis.

Assuming this is included in the upcoming review, I do not request an additional special review by IPART as part of its market monitoring process for 2024-25.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on [REDACTED]

Sincerely

**Penny Sharpe MLC**

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,  
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage

21/4/25