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Your submission for this review:

Thank you for the chance to contribute to IPART's review. I hope this submission is not late. There is little opportunity to have a say in most reviews on energy, so thank you. There are several issues I want to raise for IPART to consider. 1. I try to keep up to date with the news and what is happening with electricity and gas as I used to work in this sector. The amount of change is happening very quickly and it seems like it is nearly impossible for anyone to keep up. Right now IPART is looking at NSW, the Commonwealth Government at the National Electricity Market, the AEMC at pricing, the AER at retailers and the ACCC at everything above. Then on top of this, there seven rule changes from Energy Ministers. In your last report you said there is a regulatory burden issue, but there is also a mental burden on consumers of essentials like electricity and gas change too frequently and being needlessly complicated. 2. Another issue I want to raise with IPART is that someone needs to consider and look into the cumulative effect of prices. In your last report you had some data on the 1 year price change for NSW. This should be repeated every year. The cumulative impact of rising electricity prices has been large. While each year the increase might not be too high, when it's consistently higher than inflation, households do feel this. Some of my friends are now going without electricity. This really shouldn't be occurring with an essential service. The Government is also subsidising electricity and gas bills heavily. 3. Electricity has become far too complicated. 20 years ago we had the same electricity, but at a much lower and simple price. Now we have electricity but with a much higher price and with prices that are nearly impossible to understand. Last year you reported demand charges and that the Government comparison website can't calculate the cost of these. These need to be phased out. At some point common sense needs to raise up. If the Government can't calculate the cost of a plan how can anyone be expected to? 4. What I have mentioned above warrants close attention. While you ask in your paper about virtual power plants and demand response, the basics for everyday electricity are not yet right, or even close. Please focus on making sure we have affordable and easy to understand electricity and gas first. A good foundation is needed. While everyone uses electricity and gas, only a few people use virtual power plants.