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Date of submission: Tuesday, 26 June 2018

Submission: I have been an ASP Level 2 electrician for over 12 years in the ACT/NSW region. In this time I have many happy clients. Builders, Electricians, facility managers and home owners. I now have frustrated clients who would like to pay me for my services; Unfortunately the process is onerous and confusing. Hence I am losing clients.

Old system, for example:- Client engages retailer for NMI – NMI is given to the Level 2 – Power and meter are installed – Time taken - within 2 days.

New system, for example:- Clients engages retailer for NMI – This sometimes takes up to 3 weeks depending on the retailer - NMI is given to a meter provider – Meter provider gives order to their preferred contractor – Meter is sent to the ASP – Time taken – Up to 4 Months.

The meter exchange program for Solar and off peak is even more confusing. A 10 business day wait for a power shut off notification, Hello! The client just wants a meter and he wants it now.
I now have to compete with retailers that are not charging customers for meter installations. Having said that, I am still required to pay all licencing fees and charges should I install a meter. The other issue is the dumbing down of the ASP Level 2 licence which now allows electricians to install meters. This has caused unwanted delays as the electrician cannot fit a service fuse (if required) or complete any other level 2 works and must walk away causing even more stress on clients.

My suggestion is to revert back to the old system somewhat, however, retaining the individual metering companies. I install a meter and inform the metering company of the completion. They in turn inform the retailer.

As for power of Choice, what choice does anyone have. The decisions have allowed Electrical networks to buy metering company's, this is not fair and unethical, however, the ACCC, are even more incompetent than the AER. The AER has reduced my income and has put more pressure on my family and our living standards.