



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ENERGY RETAILERS ASSOCIATION WELCOMES QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON FULL RETAIL CONTESTABILITY.**

The Energy Retailers Association of Australia (ERAA) welcomed the announcement by the Queensland Premier, the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Energy that Full Retail Contestability (FRC) would be introduced into Queensland from 1 July 2007.

The ERAA's Executive Director Patrick Gibbons said "the Queensland Government should be applauded for taking this important step".

"By offering greater choice, Queensland consumers will benefit."

"With the introduction of competition, consumers can expect to see the entry of new retailers and a wider variety of energy retail products. FRC will be great for consumers," Patrick Gibbons said.

"And just as important, FRC will be of long term benefit to the industry. It will help the industry make the vital long term investment decisions the energy sector needs."

In welcoming the decision, Patrick Gibbons noted there is keen interest in the Queensland energy retail market among retailers outside the State.

"Queensland has one of the fastest growing energy markets in Australia, and with introduction of FRC, it is set to be one of the most competitive."

Nationally, the Queensland Government's decision will provide continued momentum for the national energy market reform process.

"The decision to introduce FRC in Queensland will provide a significant boost to national energy market reform, and this also is welcomed," Patrick Gibbons said.

"The Queensland Government has taken the right decision. It is forward looking and will play an important role in delivering energy in the most efficient means possible to Queenslanders."

**ENDS**

Patrick Gibbons, Executive Director  
Energy Retailers Association of Australia  
Mobile: 0417 276 567  
Email: [pgibbons@eraa.com.au](mailto:pgibbons@eraa.com.au)