



3 December 2003

Energy retailers respond positively to Electricity Transfer Rebate Scheme

The Energy Retailer's Association of Australia (ERAA) today welcomed the South Australian Government decision to introduce the Electricity Transfer Rebate Scheme (ETRS) for concession holders.

On behalf of its members, the ERAA has assured the State Government that it will work closely with the appropriate departments to implement the one-off \$50 rebate by no later than 1 March as requested. The rebate will apply to concession holders who have or will move to market contracts from 1 January 2003 to 30 June 2004.

To ensure the new scheme is made available to electricity customers as soon as possible and that concession holders are not discriminated against, ERAA members will work with the Government to achieve some of the key elements of the scheme:

- New contracts do not include early contract termination exit penalties;
- Market contracts are made available to concession card holders;
- Call centres are resourced and trained to respond to calls resulting from the Government's communication campaign; and that
- A range of bill payment options will be offered.

ERAA Chair, Tony Wood, said, "The ERAA believes the South Australian Government Electricity Transfer Rebate Scheme will provide an open and transparent stimulus to competition in the marketplace. It will encourage concession holders to move into market contracts with their current electricity retailer or with a competing company," Mr Wood said.

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Tony Wood
ERAA Chairman
03 9652 5506
0419 642 098

About the Energy Retailer's Association of Australia: The ERAA was formed in 2003 as a representative forum of Australia's energy retailers and traders. The Association now combines the members of the former National Retailers Forum, the ESAA's Retail Directorate and the AGA's Retail Committee. Its objectives include the development of energy policy, the pursuit of efficient energy markets, lower regulatory costs and it provides a focal point for Government and media on energy retailing and trading activities. Its membership consists of representatives from ActewAGL Retail, AGL Sales and Marketing, Aurora Energy, AusPower, Australian Inland Energy, Country Energy, Energex Retail, Energy Australia, Ergon Energy, Integral Energy, Origin Energy and TXU.