

# Energy Bill Relief Fund – Northern Territory

## FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

**Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule**

Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory (NT)
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2025, or when the final payment adjustments are made (if applicable), whichever is later.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of targeted energy bill assistance (the bill relief) in the NT from the Energy Bill Relief Fund (the Fund).</p> <p>The bill relief will be jointly funded between the Commonwealth and the NT.</p> <p>The bill relief will be targeted to households receiving income support, pensioners and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders, Family Tax Benefit A and B recipients, households eligible for the NT's existing electricity rebate scheme, and to small business customers of electricity retailers, as defined by the NT.</p> <p>Further details of the eligibility criteria for the bill relief are detailed at Appendix A.</p>
Governance	<p>The NT will implement appropriate processes to ensure the integrity of payments from the Fund. For household customers this will require participating electricity retailers confirm eligibility consistent with current household concession arrangements, or to use the Commonwealth (Services Australia) facility. For small businesses, eligibility will be administered using the NT's definition of small businesses.</p> <p>The Commonwealth will implement appropriate processes to ensure the integrity of Commonwealth facilities used in delivering the bill relief.</p>
Reporting arrangements	The NT will provide the Commonwealth with statements of assurance in relation to the bill relief that satisfies the requirements outlined in the Schedule. The reporting requirements are set out in Appendix B.
Estimated financial contributions	<p>Through the Fund, the Commonwealth will contribute an estimate of \$1.5 billion in aggregate to all states for the bill relief.</p> <p>Given this is a demand-driven program, the final resulting allocations to all states will depend on actual take-up in each jurisdiction over the period of the program. The Commonwealth's contributions for bill relief in the NT are set out in Table 2.</p>

Additional terms	<p>Any changes to the key parameters outlined in Appendix A will need to be agreed by the NT and Commonwealth Treasurers.</p> <p>Any changes to data reporting requirements outlined in Appendix B will need to be agreed by the relevant NT and Commonwealth officials.</p> <p>Payments made outside the agreed scheme parameters will not be co-funded by the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Where the NT recoups payments made to ineligible entities, the NT will repay the Commonwealth's financial contributions.</p> <p>Repayments may be managed by either the Commonwealth amending a future payment to the NT under this Schedule by the relevant amount, or by the Commonwealth invoicing the NT for the relevant amount.</p> <p>The Commonwealth will support engagement with retailers and relevant NT agencies to ensure retailers and relevant NT agencies can interact effectively with Commonwealth facilities to deliver the bill relief. Any retailer requests for funding to support program administration and rollout are matters for the Commonwealth to resolve and, if necessary, fund. The NT will not be required to co-fund administration costs requested from retailers.</p>
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## Table 2: NT – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

1. The Commonwealth will reimburse the NT 50 per cent of all bill relief provided to eligible households and small businesses under this schedule. Costs are estimated at \$11.5 million to the Commonwealth and \$11.5 million to the NT Government for 2023-24.
2. Any eligible costs that exceed this estimated total cost (e.g. due to take-up being higher than forecast) will be shared equally between the Commonwealth and the NT.
3. Eligibility criteria are detailed in Appendix A.
4. Eligibility for bill relief to households will be checked in a manner consistent with how eligibility is checked for the NT's existing energy concessions.
5. Eligibility for bill relief to small businesses will be administered by retailers using the NT's definition of small businesses.
6. All households and small businesses serviced by Indigenous Essential Services Pty Ltd (IES) are deemed to be eligible, and no further eligibility check will be required to be undertaken.
7. Payment to the NT will be made as soon as practicable following the provision of a statement of assurance in relation to the bill relief that satisfies the requirements outlined in this Schedule.
  - a. The reporting requirements for the statement of assurance are detailed in Appendix B.
  - b. A statement of assurance should be provided to the Commonwealth within two months, or as soon as practicable, after the end of each quarter.
8. A line item will be included on energy bills regarding the fund, with details to be determined in discussion with the Commonwealth and retailers that acknowledges the shared contributions made by both the Commonwealth and the NT.
9. The NT will take necessary steps to ensure that electricity retailers include statement on the front page of all bills where the rebate has been applied, subject to implementation costs being resolved between the Commonwealth and retailers *"Your electricity bill has been reduced by your eligibility for a \$X rebate funded by the Commonwealth and the NT under the Energy Price Relief Plan"*
10. The Commonwealth commits to informing relevant households not already eligible for the NT's existing household concession of their expected eligibility for the program, to enable efficient administration of the program for recipients and retailers.

### Payment arrangements

#### Households

1. Eligible households will receive a total bill credit through their retailers of \$350 for 2023-24, shared equally between the Commonwealth and the NT.
2. Credits totaling \$87.5 will be applied to the bills of those eligible households in each quarter for 2023-24, or as soon as practicable thereafter, as appropriate with existing billing cycles.
3. In the case of embedded networks, and other non-standard billing arrangements, a grant payment of \$350 will be made to eligible customers as a one-off payment for 2023-24 in line with existing concession arrangements.

Businesses

4. Eligible small businesses will receive a total bill credit of \$650 for 2023-24, shared equally between the Commonwealth and the NT.
5. Credits of \$162.5 will be applied to the bills of those eligible small businesses in each quarter for 2023-24, or as soon as practicable thereafter, or otherwise pro-rated in line with existing billing cycles.

IES Customers

6. The NT will determine the most cost effective and efficient delivery of bill relief for customers serviced by IES, such that IES customers will receive the same level of relief as other eligible customers.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

**Signed** for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by



**The Honourable Dr Jim Chalmers MP**  
Treasurer

2 May 2023

**Signed** for and on behalf of the  
Northern Territory by



**The Honourable Eva Lawler MLA**  
Treasurer

May 2023

**- 5 MAY 2023**

## Appendix A: Key scheme parameters

1. This appendix to the *Energy Bill Relief Fund – Northern Territory Schedule* (the Schedule) supports the delivery of the Fund, announced on 9 December 2022 at National Cabinet. This package will support households and businesses and help shield them from the worst impacts of rising global energy prices.
2. The Commonwealth will reimburse the NT 50 per cent of the bill relief provided to eligible households and small businesses.
3. Payments to the NT will be made in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Schedule.
4. In agreeing to this appendix, the NT agrees to implement this package in accordance with the eligibility criteria detailed below.

### Commonwealth funding

5. The Commonwealth's funding contributions are outlined in Table 2 of the Schedule.
6. Eligibility for both households and small businesses will be primarily based on their eligibility for the program as at 1 July 2023.
7. Households and small businesses are required to apply for relief by 31 March 2024, with any applications made by this time to be accepted and receive a proportion of the rebate that reflects the proportion of the financial year for which they are eligible.
8. The delivery of the bill relief through the Fund is not intended to and will not affect any state or territory's GST allocation.

### Household eligibility criteria

9. Eligible households are recipients/holders of:
  - a. Pensioner Concession Card (including those issued by DVA);
  - b. Health Care Card (including Low Income Health Care Card);
  - c. DVA Gold Cards;
  - d. Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (including those issued by DVA);
  - e. Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A and B;
  - f. Carer Allowance; and
  - g. NT's Electricity Concession scheme as at the date when Commonwealth signs this schedule (which may include recipients above):
    - Age pension payment
    - Disability Support Pension
    - Carer Payment
    - Parenting Payment (single)
    - Repatriation Health Card TPI or War Widower (gold card)
    - Repatriation Pharmaceuticals Benefits Card (orange card)
    - Pensioner Concession Card (maroon and blue card)
    - Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (green card); or
  - h. As otherwise agreed between the parties, including any changes to the NT's Annual Electricity Concession scheme after the Schedule commences.

### Business eligibility criteria

10. The bill relief will be targeted to small business customers of electricity retailers by using the definition of electricity 'small customer' as applied in each state. In the NT, this definition is an annual electricity consumption of less than 160 MWh.

## Appendix B: Data reporting requirements

### Statement of assurance

1. The NT will report to the Commonwealth on the take-up of the bill relief via statements of assurance confirming retailers have checked that all recipients met the bill relief eligibility criteria outlined in Appendix A. The check will be done in a manner consistent with how eligibility is checked for the NT's existing energy concessions and with NT's definition of small businesses.
2. A statement of assurance will be provided to the Commonwealth within two months, or as soon as practicable, after each quarter.
3. The statement of assurance will include summary statistics on the take-up of the bill relief for the quarter, including:
  - a. total value of the bill relief provided split between households and small businesses;
  - b. total number of entities that received the bill relief split between households and small businesses; and
  - c. details of any bill relief provided to households or small businesses subsequently found to have been ineligible for support and funding recovered.