

Energy Bill Relief Fund - Queensland

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Queensland
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 Queensland from the Energy Bill Relief Fund (the Fund). The bill relief will be jointly funded between the Commonwealth and Queensland.</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 Queensland's existing electricity rebate scheme, and to small business customers of electricity retailers, as defined by Queensland's application of the National Energy Retail Law.</p> <p>This bill relief will be provided automatically to all eligible households as part of Queensland's broader 'Cost-of-Living Rebate', which will be provided to all Queensland households.</p> <p>Further details of the eligibility criteria for the bill relief are detailed at Appendix A.</p>
Governance	<p>Queensland will implement appropriate processes to ensure the integrity of payments under the Fund.</p> <p>As rebates will be provided automatically to all Queensland households, including those eligible for relief through this Energy Bill Relief, there will be no requirement for retailers to verify eligibility through Services Australia. However, retailers will be required to verify eligibility for Queensland's Electricity Rebate Scheme, in accordance with current practices.</p> <p>For small businesses, eligibility will need to be administered in a manner consistent with the Queensland's definition of small businesses under the National Energy Retail Law.</p> <p>The Commonwealth will implement appropriate processes to ensure the integrity of Commonwealth facilities used in delivering the bill relief.</p>

Reporting arrangements	Queensland 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>The Commonwealth's estimated contributions for the bill relief in Queensland are set out in Table 2, with the final quantum detailed in Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary.</p>
Additional terms	<p>The bill relief will be provided to eligible households as part of Queensland's broader Cost-of-Living Rebate, which will provide a rebate of at least \$550 to all Queensland households.</p> <p>This Cost-of-Living Rebate will be provided automatically. As such, there will be no requirement for households to opt-in to receive the rebate, nor will there be any requirement for retailers to verify eligibility for the Energy Bill Relief.</p> <p>Accordingly, retailers will not be required to report on the exact number of households to which it has provided rebates under the Energy Bill Relief. However, retailers will continue to report on the number of recipients of Queensland's Cost-of-Living Rebate and the Electricity Rebate Scheme.</p> <p>Any changes to this schedule or the key parameters outlined in Appendix A will need to be agreed by the Queensland and Commonwealth Treasurers, in writing by both parties.</p> <p>Payments made outside the agreed scheme parameters will not be co-funded by the Commonwealth.</p>

Table 2: Queensland – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

1. The Commonwealth will reimburse Queensland 50 per cent of all bill relief provided to eligible households and small businesses under this schedule. Costs are estimated at \$328.5 million to the Commonwealth and \$328.5 million to the Queensland 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 between the Commonwealth and Queensland as set out in this schedule.
3. Eligibility criteria are detailed in Appendix A.
4. Eligibility for bill relief to small businesses will be administered by retailers using Queensland’s definition of small businesses under the National Energy Retail Law.
5. Payment to Queensland will be made as soon as practicable following the provision of a statement of assurance, based on the number of payments provided to households and small businesses.
 - 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.
6. Noting that retailers will not be checking for eligibility for Energy Bill Relief, the Commonwealth’s payment to Queensland for households will be determined based on:
 - i. the number of verified households receiving Queensland’s Cost-of-Living Rebate, multiplied by
 - ii. the Commonwealth’s estimate of the proportion of Australian households expected to be eligible for Energy Bill Relief, which is 50.4 per cent.
7. Queensland will deliver the Energy Bill Relief household rebate as part of the Queensland Government’s ‘Cost-of-Living Rebate’ which will be provided automatically to all Queensland households.
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 Queensland in relation to the National Energy Bill Relief program.
9. The Commonwealth commits to informing relevant households not already eligible for Queensland’s existing household concession of their expected eligibility for the program, to enable efficient administration of the program for recipients and retailers.

Payment arrangements

Household Electricity Rebate

1. Queensland will provide a total bill credit of \$550 to all Queensland households, distributed in each quarter for 2023-24, or as soon as practicable thereafter, as appropriate with the existing billing cycles.
2. Queensland will provide a higher total bill credit of \$700 to all vulnerable Queensland households eligible for the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme, distributed in each

quarter for 2023-24, or as soon as practicable thereafter, as appropriate with the existing billing cycles. This will bring total support for this cohort to \$1,072 in 2023-24, including the \$372 Electricity Rebate Scheme.

3. The Commonwealth will contribute \$250 of the total \$550 or \$700 credit to eligible households as defined in Appendix A to this Schedule.
4. In the case of embedded networks, a grant payment of either \$550 or \$700 will be made to eligible households as a one-off payment for 2023-24.

Small Business Rebate

5. Queensland will establish a Small Business Rebate on behalf of the Commonwealth.
6. Eligible small businesses will receive a total bill credit of \$650 for 2023-24 (shared equally between the Commonwealth and Queensland).
7. Credits totaling \$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, as appropriate with the existing billing cycles.
8. In the case of embedded networks, a grant payment of \$650 will be made to eligible small businesses as a one-off payment for 2023-24.

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

Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by

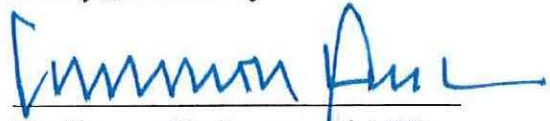


The Honourable Dr Jim Chalmers MP
Treasurer

[Day] [Month] [Year]

02-11-2023

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by



The Honourable Cameron Dick MP
Treasurer

[Day] [Month] [Year]

5 December, 2023

Appendix A: Key scheme parameters

1. This appendix to the *Energy Bill Relief Fund – Queensland* Schedule (the Schedule) supports the delivery of the Fund, announced on 9 December 2022 at National Cabinet. This package will support households and small businesses and help shield them from the worst impacts of rising global energy prices.
2. The Commonwealth will reimburse Queensland \$250 per eligible household and \$325 per eligible small business.
3. Payments to Queensland will be made in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Schedule.
4. In agreeing to this appendix, Queensland agrees to work with the Commonwealth to implement this package.

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 determined based on their eligibility for the program as at 1 July 2023. Households and small businesses that become eligible after this date will not be able to access the bill relief.
7. 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

8. 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. Queensland's Electricity Rebate scheme (which may include recipients above):
 - Pensioner Concession Card
 - Health Care Cards (including Low Income Health Card)
 - DVA Gold Cards
 - Queensland Seniors Card
 - ImmiCard; or
 - h. As otherwise agreed between the parties, including any changes to Queensland's Electricity Rebate scheme after the Schedule commences.

Business eligibility criteria

9. 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 under the National Energy Retail Law. In Queensland, this definition is an annual electricity consumption of 100 MWh.
10. Queensland and retailers will take reasonable steps to make appropriate carve-outs of government agencies and branches of larger businesses.

Appendix B: Data reporting requirements

Statement of assurance

1. Queensland will report to the Commonwealth on the number of eligible households who receive the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme, and who are provided with the bill relief.
2. Retailers will verify eligibility in line with existing arrangements for the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme and small business recipients of the Commonwealth contributions.
3. A statement of assurance will be provided to the Commonwealth within two months, or as soon as practicable, after each quarter.
4. The statement of assurance will include summary statistics on the take-up of the relief for the quarter, including the:
 - a. total number of recipients who are receiving Queensland's existing Electricity Rebate scheme; and
 - b. total number and value of bill relief provided to small businesses.