

The Treasury
Retail Banking and Currency Unit, Banking and Credit Branch
Langton Cres, PARKES ACT 2600

Submitted via email.
31 October 2025

Mandating cash acceptance

The Australian Energy Council ('AEC') welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in response to Treasury's *Mandating cash acceptance* exposure draft regulations ('draft').

The Australian Energy Council is the peak industry body for electricity and downstream natural gas businesses operating in the competitive wholesale and retail energy markets. AEC members generate and sell energy to over 10 million homes and businesses and are major investors in renewable energy generation.

The AEC supports the proposed exposure draft regulations. In our [submission](#) to the initial consultation paper, we expressed that energy retailers and EV charging stations should be excluded from the proposed mandate. We noted that energy retailers are already covered by existing obligations to accept payment 'in-person' Rule 32(1)(a) of the National Energy Retail Rules (NERR'), which requires retailers to provide multiple payment methods. As retailers do not typically operate physical storefronts, those in-person transactions are primarily conducted through Australia Post, a government-owned entity.

Likewise, given, innovative energy offerings, such as battery storage, solar installations, community batteries, and EV plans, rely on digital payment systems with direct debit arrangements, a cash mandate would have likely impacted affordability and uptake of these clean energy options. Indeed, if a cash mandate was applied to EV charging in particular, it would introduce unnecessary operational complexity and costs, deterring investment in EV infrastructure.

We therefore welcome Treasury's proposed draft regulation, which applies to grocers and motor fuel retailers.

Any questions about this submission should be addressed to Braeden Keen by email to braeden.keen@energycouncil.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

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