

Schedule

Energy Bill Relief Fund Extension– Tasmania

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Tasmania
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 31 December 2026, or when the final payment adjustments are made (if applicable), whichever is later.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of energy bill assistance extension (bill relief) to households and eligible small businesses in Tasmania from the Energy Bill Relief Fund (the Fund) over the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2025.</p> <p>Bill relief will be provided to Tasmanian households and to eligible small business customers of electricity retailers, as defined by Tasmania’s application of the National Energy Retail Law.</p> <p>Further details of the eligibility criteria for the bill relief are detailed at Appendix A.</p> <p>This agreement will not impact the ongoing administration of the existing EBRF federal funding agreement and payments from the existing fund in 2024-25.</p>
Governance	<p>Tasmania is responsible for the delivery of the program as agreed in this Schedule. Tasmania will utilise existing processes and implement appropriate processes to ensure the integrity of payments from the Fund.</p> <p>For household and small business customers this will require participating electricity retailers and Tasmanian Government Agencies to confirm eligibility as outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p>For small businesses, eligibility will be administered using Tasmania’s definition of small businesses under the National Energy Retail Law and as outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p>Tasmania will ensure that there are appropriate risk and governance frameworks for the extension, similar to those that are used in administering the existing fund.</p> <p>The Commonwealth will work with Tasmania to identify shared risk and manage and appropriately mitigate shared risks.</p>
Reporting arrangements	Tasmania will provide the Commonwealth with statements of assurance in relation to bill relief that satisfies the requirements outlined in the Schedule. The reporting requirements are set out in Appendix B of this Schedule.

	<p>Tasmania will provide additional information, where possible, if requested by the Commonwealth for the purposes of approving the statements of assurance and for the Commonwealth's assurance activities where relevant.</p>
Estimated financial contributions	<p>Through the extension to the Fund, the Commonwealth will contribute an estimate of \$3.5 billion for the original FFA, and an additional \$1.8 billion for the 2025 extension, for a total of \$5.3 billion in aggregate to all states to provide for bill relief.</p> <p>Given this is a demand-driven program, the final resulting allocations to all states will depend on the actual number of households, embedded networks and small business customers in each jurisdiction over the period of the program. The Commonwealth's estimated contributions for bill relief in Tasmania are set out in Table 2.</p> <p>The Commonwealth will pay Tasmania in arrears based on statements of assurance confirming reports are an accurate representation of monies disbursed by retailers.</p>
Additional terms	<p>Any changes to the key parameters outlined in Appendix A will need to be agreed by Tasmanian and Commonwealth Treasurers.</p> <p>Any changes to data reporting requirements outlined in Appendix B will need to be agreed by relevant Tasmanian and Commonwealth officials.</p> <p>Payments made outside the agreed scheme parameters will not be funded by the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Where Tasmania recoups payments made to ineligible entities, Tasmania will repay the Commonwealth's financial contributions.</p> <p>Rebates will not be refundable for active accounts. Where rebates from the Fund remain as unused credit upon the closure of an account, upon request the remaining credit should be refunded to the customer in line with existing concessions.</p> <p>Repayments may be managed by either the Commonwealth amending a future payment to Tasmania under this Schedule by the relevant amount, or by the Commonwealth invoicing Tasmania for the relevant amount.</p> <p>Tasmania will require retailers to report quarterly on the number of customers receiving rebates and provide breakdowns of the type of customers split between residential, embedded network and small business customers, who have received rebates.</p> <p>Tasmania will require retailers to assist residential customers who wish to check their eligibility for Energy Bill Relief.</p> <p>Tasmania will require retailers to check that eligible customers have an active residential or small business electricity account on the defined</p>

	<p>census dates (see Appendix A). Tasmania will establish a methodology to check eligibility of embedded network customers.</p> <p>Any retailer requests for funding to support program administration and rollout are matters for the Commonwealth to resolve and, if necessary, fund. Tasmania will not be required to co-fund administration costs requested from retailers.</p>
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Table 2: Tasmania – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

1. The Commonwealth will reimburse Tasmania for the bill relief provided to households and small businesses as part of the extensions as detailed in this schedule, at a rate of up to:
 - a. \$300 per household and \$325 per eligible small business in 2024-25; and
 - b. \$150 per household and eligible small business within the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year.
2. The total cost to the Commonwealth is estimated to be \$86.5 million for the 2024-25 bill relief and \$43.7 million for the 2025-26 financial year, noting final costs may vary depending on the demand for the program.
3. Any costs for bill relief that exceed the above estimated total cost (e.g. due to take-up being higher than forecast) will be borne by the Commonwealth subject to appropriate data and fraud controls.
4. This new schedule for the extension operates entirely separately to the original *Energy Bill Relief Fund- Tasmania FFA schedule*.
5. The Commonwealth's bill relief under the extension will be provided quarterly in 2024-25 and in the first two quarters of 2025-26 and will not be considered as part of the reconciliation adjustment payment under the original Energy Bill Relief Fund agreement.
6. Eligibility criteria for the extension are detailed in Appendix A.
7. Eligibility for bill relief to households and small businesses in embedded networks will be administered by the appropriate Tasmanian Government Agencies.
8. Eligibility for bill relief to small businesses will be administered by retailers using Tasmania's definition of small businesses under the National Energy Retail Law.
9. To mitigate fraud, retailers will use existing mechanisms in place for providing concessions and annual statements/reports. All claims will be reviewed for irregularities and additional information may be requested from retailers if there are any variabilities in claims.
10. Payment to Tasmania will be made as soon as practicable following the provision of a statement of assurance in relation to 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.
11. 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 contributions made by the Commonwealth.
12. Tasmania will encourage electricity retailers to comply with the Australian Energy Regulator's

Better Bills Guideline as soon as practicable.

Payment arrangements

Household Rebates

1. Eligible households will receive a bill credit through their retailers of up to \$300 per annum funded by the Commonwealth in 2024-25 and up to \$150 within the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year.
2. Credits of \$75 will be applied to the bills of households in each quarter of the 2024-25 financial year, and in each of the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year, or as soon as possible thereafter.
3. In the case of household embedded networks, a grant payment of \$300 will be made to eligible customers for 2024-25. An additional one-off grant payment of up to \$150 will be made to eligible customers within the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year.

Small Business Payment

4. Eligible small businesses will receive a total bill credit of up to \$325 for 2024-25 and up to \$150 within the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year.
5. Credits of \$81.25 will be applied to the bills of those eligible small businesses in each quarter for 2024-25, or as soon as practicable thereafter. Additionally, credits of \$75 will be applied to the bills of eligible small businesses in each of the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year.
6. In the case of small business embedded networks, a grant payment of \$325 will be made to eligible customers as a one-off payment for 2024-25. An additional grant payment of \$150 will be made to eligible customers as a one-off payment within the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year.

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

13 June 2025

**Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by**



The Honourable Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Attorney-General and
Minister for Justice

[Day] [Month] [Year] 25/6/25

Appendix A: Key scheme parameters

1. This appendix to the *Energy Bill Relief Fund Extension – Tasmania* Schedule (the Schedule) supports the delivery of an extension to the Fund in 2024-25 and the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year. The Extension was announced in the Commonwealth's 2024-25 and 2025-26 Budget. This package will support households and small businesses and help shield them from the ongoing cost of living pressures.
2. The Commonwealth will reimburse Tasmania for bill relief provided under the extension to households and eligible small businesses at a rate of up to:
 - a. \$300 per household and \$325 per eligible small business quarterly, in 2024-25; and
 - b. \$150 per household and eligible small business over the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year
3. Payments made under this agreement will not affect payments or terms made under the original Energy Bill Relief Fund agreement.
4. The Commonwealth will fully fund bill relief provided to eligible households for 2023-24 and Tasmania will continue to fully fund bill relief applied to households eligible under the original Energy Bill Relief Fund agreement for Q1 and Q4 2024-25.
 - a. As per the original Energy Bill Relief Fund agreement, reconciliation of the relief payments made by both parties will be undertaken following the end of the original relief arrangement.
5. If applicable, a reconciliation adjustment payment will be made between parties to ensure both parties each contribute 50 per cent of the bill relief provided to eligible households for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025 under the original agreement.
 - i. Payments under the extension will not be considered in this reconciliation.
6. Payments to Tasmania will be made in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Schedule.
7. In agreeing to this appendix, Tasmania agrees to implement this package in accordance with the eligibility criteria detailed below.
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.

Eligibility period

Census Dates

9. The census dates for relevant quarters in 2024-25 are:
 - a. Quarter 1: 31 July 2024
 - b. Quarter 2: 1 October 2024
 - c. Quarter 3: 1 January 2025
 - d. Quarter 4: 1 April 2025
10. The census dates for relevant quarters in 2025-26 are:
 - a. Quarter 1: 1 July 2025
 - b. Quarter 2: 1 October 2025

Household eligibility criteria

11. Eligibility and payments for households will be based on the census dates for each quarter:
12. Residential retail customers holding an active electricity account at the census date of each quarter in the 2024-25 financial year and in each of the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year will be eligible to receive that quarter's rebate on the account.
13. Households in an embedded network in Tasmania will only need to apply once in each of the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years and be able to receive the full rebate in a once-off payment.
14. Households may be determined to be eligible as otherwise agreed between the parties,

- including any changes after the Schedule commences.
15. Rebates will be provided to households on an account basis where possible, with one rebate provided per customer.
 - a. As off-grid households do not hold an account with an energy retailer or embedded network provider, in most jurisdictions, these households will not be eligible for energy bill relief payments.
 16. Accounts for embedded network customers refers to a household being under the same account name.
 17. New household electricity accounts created after 1 April 2025 will not be able to access bill relief for the 2024-25 round, and accounts created after 1 October 2025 will not be able to access bill relief for the extension to the first two quarters of 2025-26.

Small business eligibility criteria

18. Eligibility and payments for small businesses will use the 'small customer' definition below and be based on the census dates for each quarter:
19. Small business retail customers holding an active electricity account at the census date of each quarter in the 2024-25 financial year and the first two quarters of the 2025-26 financial year will be eligible to receive that quarter's rebate on the account.
 - a. Small businesses in embedded networks will only need to apply once in each of the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years and be able to receive the full rebate in a once-off payment.
20. 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 Tasmania, this definition is an annual electricity consumption of 150 MWh.
21. Tasmania and retailers will take reasonable steps to make appropriate carve-outs of government agencies and branches of larger businesses.
22. New small business electricity accounts created after 1 April 2025 will not be able to access bill relief for the 2024-25 round, and accounts created after 1 October 2025 will not be able to access bill relief for the extension to the first two quarters of 2025-26.

Appendix B: Data reporting requirements

Statement of assurance

1. Tasmania will report to the Commonwealth on the provision of bill relief via statements of assurance confirming retailers have checked all recipients met the bill relief eligibility criteria outlined in Appendix A. This check will be done in a manner consistent with how eligibility is checked for Tasmania's existing energy concessions and with Tasmania's definition of small businesses under the National Energy Retail Law.
2. A statement of assurance will be provided to the Commonwealth within two months, or as soon as practicable, after each relevant quarter.
3. The statement of assurance will include summary statistics on the take-up of the bill relief for the relevant quarter, including the quarter in which the rebate was paid to the household or small business, 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;
 - c. total number and value of payments made to customers in embedded networks split between households and small business; and
 - d. details of any bill relief provided to households or small businesses subsequently found to

have been ineligible for support and funding recovered, including de-identified invoices upon request.

4. The statement of assurance for the last quarter for the Extension must also include summary statistics on the take-up of bill relief over the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 and separately, the extension period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025, including information outlined in clause 3 of Appendix B, to inform an end of program reconciliation and if required, any payment adjustments.
5. Where Tasmania identifies any instances of fraud or misconduct relating to payments made under the Fund, Tasmania will notify the Commonwealth in writing, including details of action taken to remedy this where appropriate.
6. Where any audits or other assurance activities are undertaken to ensure the integrity of payments made under the fund, Tasmania will write to the Commonwealth to summarise the findings and advise the Commonwealth of the outcomes of these processes.
7. The parties must in good faith negotiate to resolve any disagreement or dispute arising between them in relation to the statements of assurance. If a dispute cannot be resolved by officials, it may be escalated to the relevant Ministers.
8. In addition to the uptake reporting requirements, the Commonwealth may request information relating to the reporting arrangements between Tasmania and the retailers, including the retailer's assurance processes for checking for fraud and processes in place to understand any discrepancies in numbers.
9. The Commonwealth may request the state provide information around fraud detection and invoice checking.