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Proposed Revisions to Environmental Qualification of Mechanical and Electrical Equipment

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Proposed Revisions to Environmental Qualification of Mechanical and Electrical Equipment;
 Request for Comment on Standard Review Plan-Draft Section Revision

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General Comment

America needs to stop Wind Farms and Solar and subsidies, Real life example; Dec 2017 Australian Minister Josh Frydenberg release the Menzies Research Centre report, which calls for subsidies for renewable energy to be phased out and gas-extraction bans to be lifted to prevent prices rising higher. Renewable energy subsidies push up bills, says report Subsidies for renewable energy are behind most power price increases, adding almost \$300 to the average electricity bill, according to a report that calls for a "reboot" of the national energy market. Our energy markets are broken. The nation is now facing the prospect of shortages and widespread blackouts, a scenario that until recently was unimaginable to most Australians.

Australian and renewables subsidies, "Consumers and business owners have a right to feel angry," Mr Shepherd said. "They have been largely kept in the dark about the extent and effect of subsidies to support the introduction of renewable energy, consumers had borne the cost of "ill-judged" state and federal renewable energy programs, which had resulted in a less-efficient, less-reliable national electricity supply.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission found in October that consumer electricity prices had risen by 63 per cent on top of inflation since 2007-08, prompting

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chairman Rod Sims to warn that households were under "unacceptable pressure". Australian households and businesses now suffer from high energy prices and diminished reliability. A decade ago, prices were the fifth-lowest in the OECD. Today they are the 12th highest. The current situation is failing the nation. The retirement of caseload generators and the scarcity of gas has created uncertainty in supply the cost of energy has increased (residential prices have increased by 63 per cent on top of inflation since 2007-08), and investor confidence has been severely diminished. Renewable energy policies have increased costs without a corresponding increase in transparency. Renewable energy policies are failing to deliver which is costing families and businesses for no apparent advantage.

The result was a deficit of dispatchable energy and a significant increase in prices. Energy prices are reducing Australia's competitiveness. For instance, between 2007-08 and 2014-15, the cost of electricity to increase output by \$100 increased from \$5.77 to \$9.28 for primary metal and metal product manufacturing, from \$1.68 to \$3.34 for food product manufacturing, and from \$0.92 to \$1.62 for agriculture.

The estimated subsidies paid under the LRET and SRES components of the RET have increased from about \$100 million in 2003-04 (in current value) to \$2.74 billion last financial year. Had consumers been more aware of this being added to their power bills, they are unlikely to have agreed to them. All subsidies distort the market.

At least four Australian inquiries have found that it is possible to manage community concerns relating to environmental and social issues with respect to gas exploration and production, the most practical method of which is a cost-benefit analysis on a project-by-project basis.

Menzies Research Centre report, chaired by former Business Council of Australia head Tony Shepherd, also recommends the federal government revive community discussions on nuclear energy, and scrap state-based renewable energy targets in favor of a national framework. The report saves its most scathing comments for the role state and federal governments played in the lead-up to South Australia's statewide blackout last year. "Failures in the energy market that led to the first statewide blackout for more than half a century were entirely caused by ill-judged state, territory and federal government policies," He said consumers and businesses were not warned about the technical challenge of trying to integrate large amounts of non-synchronous energy generation into the grid. "Nor were they told about the high cost of sourcing reliable energy when wind and solar generators are idle," he added. Mr Shepherd said.

The combined policies of state and federal governments regarding energy infrastructure, generation and distribution have in the past two decades degenerated into one of the biggest policy failures in postwar Australia.