

# Victoria Government Gazette

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#### **Electricity Industry Act 2000**

In accordance with section 35(1)(b) of the **Electricity Industry Act 2000**, TRUenergy Pty Ltd (ABN 99 086 014 968) ('TRUenergy') hereby publishes its terms and conditions for its small customers on standing offer tariffs.

These terms and conditions apply on and from 8 April 2012. The terms and conditions detailed in this notice apply to small customers of TRUenergy who are purchasing electricity under TRUenergy's Standing Offer Tariff published in the Government Gazette on 1 December 2011.

TRUenergy reserves the right to change its terms and conditions for its Standing Offer Contracts from time to time acting in accordance with all applicable regulations.

# TRUENERGY CUSTOMER CHARTER - VICTORIA

#### Mutual responsibility

Welcome to your TRUenergy Customer Charter. In this brochure we set out in plain English the responsibilities we have to you, our customer. It covers everything from how you will receive your account, to how you can receive advice on conserving energy. It also outlines your responsibilities to us, from maintaining easy access to your meter, to informing us if you change your address.

In short, if *you* are a Market Contract Customer, when read in conjunction with *your* relevant *TRUenergy* Plan, these are the terms and conditions by which *we* agree to provide *you* with *energy* ('agreement').

If you have any questions about the information contained in this Customer Charter, or any of the other ways we can help you with your energy needs, please don't hesitate to call us.

# What's in the TRUenergy Customer Charter?

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### Who is TRUenergy?

*We* provide electricity and natural gas to residents and businesses in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland.

#### **PART 1: THIS AGREEMENT**

# 1. When does *your* agreement start?

This agreement will start on the *start date* and for existing customers will replace *your* current terms and conditions for *energy* supply.

# **SPECIAL**

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### 2. Is this the entire agreement with us for the sale of energy?

Unless otherwise agreed with *you*, this is the entire agreement between *you* and *us*. The provisions of the *Retail Code* form the basis of the terms and conditions of this agreement and, where appropriate, *we* have made reference to the rights and obligations under the *Retail Code*. Where *we* have not expressly dealt with a subject in the *Retail Code*, the rights and obligations in the *Retail Code* are incorporated into this agreement.

This agreement cannot be inconsistent with the *Retail Code*, and if it is, the relevant term and condition is void, and the term or condition of the *Retail Code* is deemed to form part of this agreement in its place. *We* will provide *you* with a free copy of the *Retail Code* upon request.

#### PART 2: WHAT AND WHEN DO YOU HAVE TO PAY?

We will sell and bill you for energy and other related services, and arrange for the supply of energy to your supply address, and you will pay for the energy and related services supplied to you in accordance with the relevant charges that apply to you. You have 12 business days from the date on the account to pay the total amount owing, including GST.

You must also pay us for any additional retail charges, any other payment referred to in this agreement, or any other goods or services which you acquire from us, and any other charges applied by the distributor for the supply of energy to you. We will provide information on the account that is required by the Retail Code and regulations (as applicable for your agreement with us) including itemised information on the energy you have consumed and your charges, the amount payable, the pay-by date, whether the bill is based on a meter reading or is an estimated bill or (if you have a smart meter) where more than 48 hours of trading intervals have not been billed based on smart meter interval data, telephone numbers for billing and payment enquiries and for faults or emergencies. We will also include a consumption graph on your account where the regulations require.

#### 1. What pricing applies to you?

We will charge you either the price published in the Victorian Government Gazette (and on our website) as being relevant to your usage and specified by us, or the amount specially agreed between you and us. The pricing you are charged depends on the purpose of your usage, the nature of any dedicated circuits (such as off-peak appliances) and your network tariff arrangements. You can't use the energy for a different purpose. We may require you to change to a different price applicable to your usage, or we may retrospectively transfer you if you haven't given us notice of change of usage. Where the regulations allow it, the prices may change from time to time. If you are on a standing offer tariff (as published on our website), the regulations provide that we may only vary such tariffs after they have been in place for six months. If we change the price, we will notify you of the changes in accordance with the regulations (which may be by a bill message). Your account will contain charges in proportion to the periods prior to and subsequent to the price change.

Where this agreement refers to a fee or charge other than *our* rates for the supply of energy (such as a reconnection fee or the fee we charge you for checking a meter that is not faulty), the fee or charge will either be set out in *our* fact sheet which is available at www.truenergy. com.au or we will advise *you* of the applicable fee/charge before *you* incur it.

Certain amounts in this agreement are (or will be) stated to be inclusive of GST. These include the amounts specified in *our* fact sheet from time to time.

Apart from these amounts, there may be other amounts paid by *you* or by *us* under this agreement that are payments for 'taxable supplies' as defined for GST purposes.

To the extent permitted by law, the amounts we charge you will be increased by the amount of GST payable on those taxable supplies.

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# 2. How often will you receive an account?

We will issue you an account,

- (a) in the case of an electricity agreement, at least every three months;
- (b) in the case of a gas agreement, at least every two months;
- (c) in the case of a *dual fuel agreement*, at least as often as we have agreed with you.

You have a right to reach an agreement with us on shorter regular billing cycles. This can only happen with your consent and may mean a reasonable additional retail charge on your account.

Consistent failure to pay *your* accounts by the pay-by date may lead to *you* being placed on a shortened collection cycle, which *we* will only do in accordance with the *regulations*.

Certain *deemed customers* will continue on their pre-existing billing cycles. Contact *us* to find out if this applies to *you*.

#### 3. How can you pay your energy account?

We will provide a range of payment options outlined on your account that includes Australia Post, sending a cheque, or arranging a direct debit from your bank account. Before a direct debit arrangement may be used, you must complete a direct debit request. It will include details of the amounts, preferred date and frequency of direct debits, and how you can cancel the arrangement. We may make other payment methods available. Please check your account for details.

At *your* request, we will also accept payment in advance.

Where we supply you with both electricity and gas, we will apply payments received from you to charges for the supply or sale of electricity and gas as directed by you. If you are a domestic customer and where you give no direction, we will apply the payment in proportion to the relative value of those charges. We will only impose any late payment fees strictly in accordance with the regulations. Where required under the regulations, we will waive any late payment fee imposed on you. Any late payment fee we charge will be fair and reasonable having regard to costs incurred by us.

#### 4. Can you have your account reviewed?

At your request, we will review an account. While the account is under review, you must pay that part of the account on which we both agree or pay an amount equal to the average of your accounts over the past 12 months (whichever is the lower). You must also pay any future accounts you receive while the account is under review (except any portions of those accounts that you have also asked us to review). If the account is not correct, we will adjust your account. If the account is correct, you must pay the account or request that we arrange a test of your meter in accordance with the regulations. Please also refer to Part 7 of this Customer Charter. If we identify that you have been undercharged, we will include the amount owing and an explanation on an amended account. We will only charge you for amounts undercharged in accordance with the regulations. However, if the undercharging was due to fraud on your part, we are entitled to recover the full amount from you.

If you are overcharged on an account, we will refund you in accordance with the regulations or by agreement with you.

## 5. How do we calculate your account?

Unless we have your consent to do otherwise, we will base your account on a read of your meter or estimate in accordance with the regulations. If you have a smart meter, we may also base your account on substituted data or other data in accordance with the regulations. However, we will use our best endeavours to read your meter once in each 12-month period. If we have not been able to read your meter because of an act or omission by you, and you request us to replace an estimated bill with a bill based on an actual reading of your meter, we will try and comply with your request but your request may incur an additional retail charge for costs incurred in complying with your request.

If we do estimate your account and afterwards we get a reliable meter reading, we will adjust your account as required by the regulations.

#### 6. Is a security deposit<sup>1</sup> required?

For domestic customers, we may require a security deposit which is fair and reasonable and as permitted by the *regulations* if *you*:

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- still owe an amount of money from a previous address or to your previous retailer that exceeds the amount set out in the regulations;
- have used *energy* unlawfully within the past two years:
- have refused to provide acceptable identification to us as set out in the regulations; or
- have an unsatisfactory credit rating and have not accepted an instalment payment plan when offered.

For business customers, we may require a security deposit if it is fair and reasonable for us

The amount of the security deposit will be calculated in accordance with the *regulations*. Failure to pay a security deposit upon request may lead to a disconnection of *your energy* 

We will use and manage *your* security deposit in accordance with the *regulations*.

#### 7. When do we refund your security deposit?

We will use your security deposit and accrued interest to pay any accounts you have outstanding if you are disconnected and do not have the right to be reconnected, or where you leave the supply address, request disconnection or transfer to another retailer. We will provide you with an account of how we have used your security deposit.

Where applicable, we will refund your security deposit and any accrued interest in accordance with the *regulations*.

#### 8. How do we manage credit and debt collection?

We may seek to carry out a credit check on you and use the information to establish your credit rating. Our credit management and debt collection processes are in accordance with the regulations.

In line with the regulations, we may report an overdue payment to a credit-reporting agency. We may not start legal action to collect money owing while you are making payments according to an agreed arrangement.

Where there is a dishonoured payment, we may recover the amount of the dishonoured or reversed payment, plus a reasonable administration fee from you.

#### PART 3: DISCONNECTION AND RECONNECTION

#### Why would we disconnect you? 1.

We or your distributor may disconnect your energy supply for the reasons summarised below, but we must first follow the rules set out in the regulations. We will not disconnect you for not paying your account without giving you at least seven business days notice (from the date the notice is sent) of impending disconnection. If you have a smart meter, we may disconnect you remotely. You may also request disconnection of your supply address and finalisation of your account.

In summary, your energy supply may be disconnected or interrupted in accordance with the regulations for the following reasons:

- for non-payment of an amount exceeding the amount specified by the *regulations*;
- if you do not provide safe and convenient access to the meter in accordance with the regulations;
- for refusal to provide us with acceptable identification in accordance with the regulations;
- for health and safety reasons;

The Retail Code refers to this as 'refundable advance'.

- for maintenance;
- in an *emergency*;
- at the direction or request of a *regulator*;
- if you are using energy in a way that doesn't meet the regulations;
- if you are required to give a security deposit in accordance with the regulations, and fail to do so; or
- if this agreement has terminated and we are permitted to by the regulations.

If you are not able to pay your account because of insufficient income we will not disconnect your energy supply:

- until we try and contact you and do those things required by the regulations; or
- if you accept an instalment plan within five business days of us having offered the instalment plan to you.

# 2. Are you experiencing payment difficulties?

If you are having trouble paying an account by the pay-by date, you must contact us immediately.

If you are a domestic customer, we will not disconnect you for not paying your account before we have:

- offered *you* an instalment plan or payment arrangement if required by the *regulations*;
- if agreed with you, conducted an energy efficiency field audit;
- given *you* information on government-funded concessions including the Utility Relief Grant Scheme; or
- met all other requirements under the *regulations*.

# 3. Are there times when you can't be disconnected?

We will not disconnect you:

- if you, or someone living with you depend on a life support machine or have an approved medical exemption;
- if *your* complaint to the Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria, directly related to the reason for disconnection, remains unresolved;
- if *your* application for an Utility Relief Grant has not been decided;
- for failing to pay us for something other than energy; or
- after 2 pm Monday to Thursday (or 3 pm for *business customers*), or on a Friday, a weekend, a public holiday, or the day before a public holiday, except in the case of a planned interruption or other reasons as required by *your distributor*.

#### 4. If you are disconnected, when will we reconnect your energy supply?

We will reconnect your supply address generally on or before the next business day once:

- your account is paid, or agreement with us is reached on how it will be paid;
- you notify us of your application for a grant under a government-funded concession scheme such as the Utility Relief Grant Scheme; or
- the reason for *your* disconnection is otherwise resolved.

A reconnection fee may be charged. Unless otherwise agreed by you:

- if you contact us by 3 pm on a business day, we will reconnect your supply address that day;
- if you contact us after 3 pm and before 9 pm on a business day, you can still be reconnected that day for an after-hours reconnection fee; or
- if your *supply address* can be reconnected remotely and safely, we will use our best endeavours to reconnect your *supply address* within 2 hours of your request.

# **PART 4: HOW TO END THIS AGREEMENT**

#### 1. Is there a cooling-off period?

For new customers, you have the right to cancel this agreement within 10 business days (or five business days for energisation contracts or for unplugging or installation of a supply point) of the later of the Start Date or you receive a copy of this agreement. If your agreement with us is an unsolicited consumer agreement under the Competition and Consumer Act, the standard cooling-off period is 10 business days starting the first business day after you have entered into this agreement with us and received a copy of the agreement. You may cancel the agreement within the cooling-off period by providing us with notice which indicates your intention to cancel. If you have consumed energy or other services during that time, you will have to pay us for it unless the agreement is an unsolicited consumer agreement under the Competition and Consumer Act. We are not entitled to charge you any costs or require any compensation resulting from you exercising your right to cancel the agreement within the cooling-off period. Cooling-off periods do not apply for existing or deemed customers.

#### 2. How can *you* end this agreement?

Once any applicable cooling-off period has ended, you need to give us at least four business days notice in writing to end this agreement unless we have agreed otherwise with you or you are a deemed customer, in which case you need not give us any advance notice. If you have entered into an agreement to purchase energy to which an exit fee applies, you will need to pay us an exit fee if you wish to end the agreement during the period in which the exit fee is applicable, unless:

- prevented by the *regulations*;
- your termination of this agreement is due to a material breach by us; or
- an extended cooling-off period applies under the Competition and Consumer Act.

If your energy agreement contains an exit fee, we will provide you with details of that fee and how it will be calculated prior to entering into to the agreement with you. We will charge you an exit fee in accordance with the regulations. If you wish to transfer to another energy retailer, this agreement will remain in place until you have successfully transferred.

#### 3. How can we end this agreement?

We may terminate this agreement immediately in accordance with the regulations:

- if, having breached this agreement, *you* have been disconnected and *you* no longer have the right to be reconnected, or;
- under the terms of any specific agreement with *you* or *if another retailer* has become *financially responsible* for *your* premises, or;
- your usage means you fall into a different category of customer under the Retail Code.

For *deemed customers*, this agreement will also end if *you* are no longer a *deemed customer* under the *regulations*.

#### 4. What effect does ending this agreement have?

We will not have any further obligation under this agreement to sell you energy, but you will need to pay any outstanding debts. The ending of this agreement doesn't change any rights and obligations that accrued at the time of the termination, and the operation of other clauses continue. For example, you will still need to provide access to your supply address to allow access to the meter.

#### 5. What do you need to know if you are leaving your supply address?

You must give us notification and supply a forwarding address for a final bill at least three business days before you leave your supply address. If you do not notify us, you will remain responsible for the energy consumed at the supply address for three business days after you give us notice (unless evicted or forced to leave, in which case your responsibility ends after you notify us), or until someone else has an agreement for your supply address.

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We may offer you the option to transfer this agreement to your new supply address. If we have an agreement with you to supply energy at another supply address, we may include in your account a bill for the amount payable for the energy consumed at your vacated supply address. After successful transfer or upon disconnection (providing this agreement had ended) you will not be required to keep paying for future energy supplied to your former supply address under this agreement.

#### **PART 5: OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### 1. What are *your* other obligations?

*You* need to:

- apply for energy;
- pay any charges including connection and reconnection charges by the due by date;
- provide *us* with acceptable identification, contact details and the details of the property owner or agent, where the *supply address* is a rental property;
- provide the information necessary for *energy* to be connected at *your supply address*;
- tell us as soon as possible if your contact details change;
- tell *us* if *you* are no longer responsible for paying for *energy* at *your supply address*; and
- make sure *you* don't take more *energy* than is allowed by *your distributor* for *your supply address*.

# 2. What additional information can you request?

By contacting *our* customer service centre *you* can receive:

- information on *your* supply;
- accounts and information on how *you* can pay;
- typical running costs of appliances;
- your energy usage and how to save money on your energy;
- a large print copy of this charter;
- as may be required by the *regulations*, a copy of *our* charter in a foreign language;
- a copy of the *Retail Code*, including a large print version;
- information on *our* pricing, including *our* market contract prices;
- historical billing information for *your supply address* for the last two years (a fee may be charged for additional or multiple requests);
- if *you* have a *smart meter*, interval data, which we may provide to *you* in an appropriate format, including in hard copy or electronically;
- for *domestic customers*, a language interpreter service;
- advice on the availability of independent financial counselling;
- information on concessions available to *domestic customers*;
- advice on how to improve *energy* efficiency;
- our additional retail charges, and our other charges: and
- information on network charges.

#### 3. What assistance do we provide for account payment?

As a *domestic customer*, if *you* are experiencing payment difficulties and *you* contact *us*, or *we* believe *you* are experiencing repeated payment difficulties and contact *you*, *you* have a right to:

• have *your* financial circumstances and hardships taken into account when negotiating instalment plans or other payment arrangements;

- receive a summary on request as to how *your* financial circumstances and payment capacity have been assessed;
- services that make paying *your energy* accounts easier *we* offer *you* payment options and instalment plans that take into account *your energy* needs and capacity to pay;
- be advised of the availability of an independent financial counsellor;
- a home *energy* audit (a fee may be charged for this service);
- receive information on the Utility Relief Grant Scheme managed by the Department of Human Services; and
- information on government-funded winter *energy* concessions.

If you are a business customer, we will consider any reasonable request from you for (and may impose a reasonable additional retail charge on you if you enter into) an instalment plan.

#### PART 6: WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED

We try hard to ensure that problems don't arise. The good news is that when problems do arise, we have a clear and simple way to resolve them. We want you to tell us about your problem and we will make every effort to resolve it immediately at your initial contact. We will continue to work with you until the problem is resolved to your satisfaction.

Where concerns remain, your problem will be referred to our Customer Relations Unit, which will review the case and notify you of a decision. Some matters, such as energy supply quality problems, will have to be referred to a distributor and may take a longer time to resolve due to their technical nature. We will advise you where there is likely to be a significant delay in investigating your problem, and provide you with details of when we expect to have a resolution and how to contact us in the meantime.

In all cases *you* should talk to *us* first. It speeds resolution and allows timely review of the matter, allowing *us* to make improvements for the benefit of all *our* customers. In the event that *you* are still not satisfied, *you* can refer *your* problem – free of any charge – to the *Energy* and Water Industry Ombudsman Victoria (EWOV), an independent dispute resolution scheme.

#### PART 7: LOOKING AFTER YOUR METER

### 1. What do we do to connect you?

If you have applied for connection or your energy agreement becomes effective, no later than the next business day we will ask your distributor to connect your supply address as soon as possible.

# 2. What is *your* assigned meter identifier?

Your assigned meter identifiers are unique numbers on your property that identify your electricity and gas meters. They will appear on your energy account.

# 3. What should you do if you think that your meter is faulty?

You may ask us to test the meter at your supply address. If the meter is recording correctly within the regulations, you will be charged for the test.

#### 4. What do you need to know about property access and meter responsibility?

We must have safe, convenient and unhindered access to your premises to read, install, remove or inspect the meter, connect or disconnect the *energy* supply, inspect or test the *energy* installation, prune or clear vegetation, and undertake repairs or maintenance. Our representatives must always carry or wear official identification and show it to you on request.

Where there is something at *your supply address* that may be a danger, *you* must inform *us* and take action to minimise the danger to *our* representatives. *You* must keep the meter safe from hazards and interference. *You* do not own the meter or any part of the *energy* distribution system.

#### PART 8: CAN THIS AGREEMENT BE CHANGED?

If you request, we will provide you with information on the prices we can offer you in accordance with the regulations. We can change the prices from time to time in line with the regulations and we will notify you of changes as set out in Part 2 of this agreement.

We may agree with you to a variation to this standard agreement provided that we have received your explicit informed consent. If we enter into a variation with you, we will provide you with details in writing.

In any case, these terms and conditions may be changed from time to time, after we have published the changes in the Government Gazette and complied with any other requirements in the regulations and, where required, we have received the consent of the ESC. If this happens, the changes will take effect from the time set out in the variation that has been published. We will make sure that we notify you of any changes.

#### PART 9: IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE WE NOT LIABLE?

The quality, frequency and continuity of supply of *energy* is subject to a variety of factors outside of *our* control, for example, accidents, weather and the acts of third parties such as other customers, generators, electricity distribution and transmission owners, gas production facilities and pipeline owners, and *regulators*.

The nature of *energy* supply is such that *we* cannot guarantee to *you* the quality, frequency or the continuity of supply of *energy* to *you*, but this agreement does not vary or exclude any immunity, limitation of liability or indemnity that may be provided in the *regulations*.

Variations in voltage are an inherent characteristic of electricity supply involving a rapid decrease (dip) or increase (spike) in voltage and cannot be completely prevented. Variations in voltage can be in excess of the voltage range tolerated by domestic appliances and business equipment, and may cause damage. Variations in gas pressure may also cause damage or interruption to supply.

If you do suffer any loss, damage or harm as a result of a variation in voltage you may be able to receive compensation from your distributor (refer to your Distribution Charter for more information).

We are responsible for loss or damage suffered by you as a result of:

- our breach of a condition, warranty or statutory guarantee under the Competition and Consumer Act; and
- *our* breach of this agreement and *our* negligence.

Subject to the statement above, we are not liable for:

- any loss or damage *you* suffer arising from:
  - any fluctuation or distortion (in voltage magnitude, voltage waveform or frequency) or variation or interruption to the supply of electricity or gas or from any such supply not being or remaining continuous;
  - us discontinuing the supply of electricity or gas in accordance with the terms of this contract; or
  - any act or omission of *your distributor*;
- loss or damage that was not reasonably foreseeable;
- loss or damage that was not caused by *our* breach of this agreement or by our negligence;
- any increase in loss or damage that was caused by your breach of contract or your negligence;
   or
- business losses (such as lost data, lost profits or business interruptions) or loss suffered by non-consumers.
- You must take reasonable steps to mitigate the extent of any loss or damage you may suffer as a result of the provision of services under this agreement. If you are a business customer, you must also take reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of loss or damage to your equipment, premises or business that may result from quality, frequency, pressure or reliability of energy supply.

We confirm that nothing in this *energy* agreement varies or excludes the operation of:

- section 120 of the National Electricity Law; or
- sections 232 or 233 of the Gas Industry Act 2001 or section 33 of the Gas Safety Act 1997.

#### 1. When can we claim indemnity from you?

You must indemnify us for any breach by you of this agreement or your negligence to the maximum amount for which we are entitled to be compensated under the common law (including in equity) or statute for *your* breach or negligence.

#### 2. Who is liable if a force majeure event occurs?

A force majeure event is an event that occurs which is outside both our and your reasonable control (such as an accident, drought, industrial action or other unavoidable cause) and would result in us or you being in breach of this agreement (for example, we may be unable to supply you energy) other than an obligation to pay money.

If a force majeure event has occurred,

- the affected party will not be in breach of this agreement for non-performance of the obligations to the extent caused by the *force majeure event* for as long as it continues.
- that affected party must use its best endeavours to promptly notify the other party of (b) the kind of force majeure event, the time it is expected to continue for, and how the force majeure event will result in a breach of this agreement. Where the force majeure event is widespread (for example, if we are unable to arrange for the supply of energy to many of our customers) we will comply with this obligation by making the necessary information available to you on our 24-hour telephone service within 30 minutes of being advised of the *force majeure event* or otherwise as soon as practicable.
- the affected party must also use its best endeavours to remove, overcome or minimise (c) the effects of the force majeure event (although neither you nor we are required to settle an industrial dispute if that is the *force majeure event*).

#### PART 10: OTHER RULES THAT APPLY

### How are greenhouse gas emissions presented on my electricity bill?

Greenhouse gas emissions connected to your electricity plan are presented on your electricity bill in accordance with the Essential Services Commission Electricity Industry Guideline No. 13 Greenhouse Gas Disclosure on Electricity Customers Bills. If you would like to view a copy of this guideline refer to our website.

#### 2. Are there other rules that apply to this agreement?

This agreement is subject to any relevant regulations, and you and we both agree to comply with all requirements in the regulations, except to the extent modified by your agreement with us where that is permitted by the regulations. You must co-operate with us and the distributor in the exercise of powers, rights or obligations under this agreement or the regulations. In particular, the Retail Code sets out our obligations to you, and your obligations to us. This agreement is subject to any minimum requirements set out in the Retail Code. If there have been changes to the Retail Code which make any part of this agreement inconsistent with the Retail Code, the relevant part or section of the Retail Code will take precedence over the terms of this agreement.

A range of other laws including consumer protection laws under the Competition and Consumer Act, guidelines and the terms of our retail licences govern your energy supply.

#### 3. What happens if *you* have special medical needs?

If you or someone you live with requires a life support machine, or your address is registered as a medical exemption supply address, and you provide us with the necessary documentary confirmation, we will make special arrangements to ensure your energy supply is not disconnected and that you are given notice of any planned interruption as required under the regulations.

# 4. How we protect the privacy of *your* information

We comply with the Privacy Act's standards of collection, disclosure and access of personal information. We collect your personal information where it is related to one or more of our business activities. This collection will always be by lawful means and the purpose of the collection shall always be clear and explicit.

You have a right to have your personal information kept confidential. Unless otherwise allowed through the regulations, we must not give out information about you, except where you have agreed that we may do so. We will use your personal information in order to sell and deliver and market energy to you, or as required or permitted by the regulations. Personal information is shared within our group of companies and with other service providers to the extent required to undertake these activities.

Where we are permitted to by the regulations, we may provide you with information on other services or products available to our customers. You may advise us if you don't want to receive this information.

If you believe the information we have about you is incorrect, you can ask for it to be changed. If we make a decision about you, or affecting you, you can ask to see the information about you on which our decision is based, and you can ask us to provide you with a written reason for the decision.

Further information on privacy matters can be obtained by applying in writing to:

The Privacy Officer

**TRUenergy** 

Locked Bag 14060

Melbourne City Mail Centre 8001

or visit us at http://www.truenergy.com.au/privacy.xhtml

#### 5. What happens if *you* tamper with the meter?

You are not allowed to take *energy* illegally, or to tamper with or bypass the meter or associated equipment. If you have, we will estimate the consumption and you will need to pay for it. If you have damaged equipment belonging to us or third parties, you will be liable for repair or replacement costs.

### 6. How can this agreement be transferred?

We may assign this agreement to another party in the event that we transfer all or substantially all of our retail sales business. We will give you notice of this. Any new agreement created under this clause will be on the same terms as this agreement. Otherwise we will only assign your agreement with your consent. You need to get our consent if you want to assign this agreement.

#### PART 11: CUSTOMER AGREEMENTS

#### 1. Who is a Deemed Customer?

If you have previously been an electricity customer of ours prior to 1 January 2001 or a gas customer of ours prior to 1 September 2001, the government has provided that an agreement is deemed to exist with us, as detailed in this document. We will notify you if we change the terms and conditions of the deemed agreement. The price which you pay for energy is the standing offer tariff which is published on our website. We will notify you of any changes to it in or with the next bill you receive after the change takes effect.

You may choose to enter into a market contract with us or another retailer on different terms and conditions or remain on the standing offer tariff. Your deemed contract will end if you move to a supply address for which we are not the FRMP, if you have chosen to enter into a different agreement, or as determined by the government.

# 2. Who is a Standing Offer Customer?

For new customers moving into premises for which we are the FRMP, who do not wish to enter a market contract, the ESC has approved standing offer terms and conditions as contained in this document.

This contract will end when you move premises or accept a market-based contract. The price which you pay for energy is the standing offer tariff which is published on our website. We will notify you of any changes to it in or with the next bill you receive after the change takes effect.

#### 3. Who is a Market Contract Customer?

You may choose to sign an *energy* market contract with *us* in which there are some variations to the terms and conditions in this Customer Charter. The contract will begin after *we* have received *your* explicit informed consent and will end according to conditions specified in the terms and conditions. Market contracts are not required to be published and are not approved by the government but are still subject to the *Retail Code*, *regulations* and other laws.

#### 4. How do we send notices to each other?

We may give you notices in writing only. Notices may be delivered by hand, by fax, by mail or by email to the address last notified to each other. Also we may give certain notices by publishing the notice in a newspaper circulating generally in Victoria.

#### PART 12: DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS AGREEMENT

'additional retail charge' means a charge relating to the supply and sale of energy by us to you other than a charge based on the price applicable to you. To avoid doubt, any network charge or other charge relating to the supply, but not sale, of energy to your supply address is not an additional retail charge, such as any charges levied by the distributor and approved by the ESC. Any amount payable by you to us for your breach of your energy agreement is not an additional retail charge.

#### 'assigned meter identifier' means:

- for electricity, the National Meter Identifier (NMI) assigned to your metering installation;
   and
- for gas, the Meter Installation Reference Number (MIRN) assigned to *your* metering installation.

'business customers' has the same meaning as in the Retail Code.

'Competition and Consumer Act' means the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) and any other applicable consumer protection laws.

'deemed customers' means customers deemed by the regulations to have entered into an energy agreement with us on the these terms and conditions and includes, where applicable, default customers (being customers who have moved into an address without having a contract). Deemed agreement has a corresponding meaning.

'domestic customers' has the same meaning as in the Retail Code.

'distributor' means the entity who owns or operates the distribution system through whose network your supply address is provided with energy.

'dual fuel agreement' means an agreement between you and us that allows us to synchronise the billing cycles in your electricity and gas agreements.

'emergency' means an emergency or intervention in the market or direction requiring interruption, curtailment or disconnection due to the actual or imminent occurrence of an event which in any way endangers or threatens to endanger the safety or health of any person or which destroys, damages or threatens to destroy or damage any property, or anything which we, the distributor or the regulator or any authority under the regulations considers to be an emergency in their absolute discretion.

**'energisation contract'** means an electricity contract under which, or in connection with, the customer's *supply address* must be connected and all that is required to effect the connection is the insertion of a fuse or the operation of switching equipment which results in there being a non-zero voltage beyond the point of supply.

'energy' means gas, electricity or both depending on what we supply you with.

**'ESC'** means the Essential Services Commission.

'force majeure event' means anything beyond the reasonable control of a party and includes any industrial action or labour disputes.

'FRMP' means Financially Responsible Market Participant.

'late payment fee' means an amount payable by you to us where you have failed to meet your obligation to pay an amount by the pay by date on our initial bill.

'regulations' means any acts, rules, regulations, orders, guidelines, licences or codes, including the *Retail Code* and the like, that regulate the parties or the *energy* industry in Victoria, as varied or replaced from time to time.

'regulator' means any body with whose directions or requests we or other parties are required to comply under the regulations and includes, without limitation the ESC.

'relevant customers' has the same meaning as in the Retail Code.

'Retail Code' means the Energy Retail Code issued by the ESC, as amended from time to time.

'smart meter' means an interval meter designed to transmit data to a remote locality, as defined in the Retail Code.

'standing offer customer' means a person who accepts a standing offer made by us pursuant to the regulations.

'start date' means the date these terms and conditions replace our current terms and conditions for energy sale and supply, or for a new customer, the date this agreement commences as follows:

- (a) for current *deemed customers* (other than those *deemed customers* who are default customers) and *standing offer customers*, these terms and conditions will take effect on and from 8 April 2012;
- (b) for *deemed customers* who are default customers, the date *you* are deemed to have entered into this agreement by the *regulations*; and
- (c) for new *energy* customers, the earlier of:
  - (i) the date we accept your application and record you as our customer in our records;
  - (ii) any specific start date we agree; or
  - (iii) the date on which your assigned meter identifier has been transferred to us.

'supply address' means the address for which you have agreed to or are deemed by the regulations to purchase energy from us.

'TRUenergy', 'us', 'our', 'ours', or 'we' means TRUenergy Pty Ltd, ABN 99 086 014 968.

**'You'** (or **'your'**) means the person who has accepted (or has been deemed to have accepted) this agreement, including any preceding versions of this agreement, and *you* are a relevant customer and/or a *domestic* or small *business customer* in accordance with the *regulations*.

In this agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) headings are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of any part of this agreement;
- (b) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- (c) an expression importing a natural person includes any company, partnership, trust, joint venture, association, corporation or other body corporate and any government agency and vice versa, and that person's executors, administrators, successors, substitutes (including, without limitation, persons taking by novation) and permitted assigns;

- (d) other parts of speech and grammatical forms of a word or phrase defined in this agreement have a corresponding meaning;
- (e) an event which is required under any term or condition set out in this agreement to occur on or by a stipulated day which is not a business day may occur on or by the next business day;
- (f) we are not in a position to connect, disconnect or reconnect the system at your supply address to a distributor's distribution system. A reference in a term or condition set out in this agreement to us connecting, disconnecting or reconnecting you is to be construed in accordance with the Retail Code;
- (g) a reference to any party, authority, agreement, document, legislation, regulation, code or anything similar includes any successor to that person, authority or item;
- (h) if the customer consists of more than one person, each person is jointly or severally bound by the obligations under the terms of this agreement; and
- (i) where this agreement requires or permits *us* to perform an action or to use confidential information, then *we* may perform the action or use the confidential information through an agent, contractor or a related company.

The laws of Victoria govern this agreement.

### WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

### 1. TRUenergy

Customer service and account enquiries: 133 466

Supply and maintenance (24hrs): 133 466 Telephone Interpreter service: 131 450

TTY (for hearing-impaired customers): 1300 368 536

Locating your network provider: 133 466

# 2. Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria

Reply Paid 469, Melbourne, VIC 8060

Freecall (except mobile phones): 1800 500 509

Telephone Interpreter service: 131 450 National Relay Service: 133 677

TTY (for hearing-impaired customers): 1800 555 677 then 1800 500 529

Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727 then 1800 500 509 Internet Relay: Connect to the NRS then 1800 500 509

Email: ewovinfo@ewov.com.au

#### 3. Essential Services Commission

Level 2, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000

Enquiries: 1300 664 969

Interstate and mobile phone: +61 3 9651 0222

www.esc.vic.gov.au

#### 4. Department of Primary Industries

DPI Information Centre,

GPO Box 4440, Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Freecall (except mobile phones): 136 186 Interstate and mobile phone: +61 3 5332 5000

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50 Lonsdale St, Melbourne, Victoria 3000

Utility Relief Grant forms and Concessions enquiries: 1800 658 521 or

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/concessions

**Department of Human Services** 

Email: concessions@dhs.vic.gov.au

TRUenergy Pty Ltd ABN 99 086 014 968 Level 33, 385 Bourke Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 Enquiries 133 466 www.truenergy.com.au TE01002-CCVIC6 04/12

#### Gas Industry Act 2001

In accordance with section 48MA.1(b) of the Gas Industry Act 2001 TRUenergy Pty Ltd (ABN 99 086 014 968) ('TRUenergy') hereby publishes its terms and conditions for its small customers on Standing Offer contracts.

These terms and conditions apply on and from 8 April 2012. The terms and conditions detailed in this notice apply to small customers of TRUenergy who are purchasing gas under TRUenergy's Standing Offer Contract published in the Government Gazette on 1 December 2011.

TRUenergy reserves the right to change its terms and conditions for its Standing Offer Contracts from time to time acting in accordance with all applicable regulations.

#### TRUENERGY CUSTOMER CHARTER - VICTORIA

#### Mutual responsibility

Welcome to your TRUenergy Customer Charter. In this brochure we set out in plain English the responsibilities we have to you, our customer. It covers everything from how you will receive your account, to how you can receive advice on conserving energy. It also outlines your responsibilities to us, from maintaining easy access to your meter, to informing us if you change your address.

In short, if you are a Market Contract Customer, when read in conjunction with your relevant TRUenergy Plan, these are the terms and conditions by which we agree to provide you with energy ('agreement').

If you have any questions about the information contained in this Customer Charter, or any of the other ways we can help you with your energy needs, please don't hesitate to call us.

### What's in the TRUenergy Customer Charter?

This agreement

What and when do you have to pay?

Disconnection and reconnection

How to end this agreement

Other responsibilities

What to do if you are not satisfied

Looking after your meter

Can this agreement be changed?

In what circumstances are we not liable?

Other rules that apply

Customer agreements

Definitions of terms used in this agreement

Who to contact for further assistance

#### Who is TRUenergy?

We provide electricity and natural gas to residents and businesses in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland.

### **PART 1: THIS AGREEMENT**

#### 1. When does *your* agreement start?

This agreement will start on the start date and for existing customers will replace your current terms and conditions for energy supply.

#### 2. Is this the entire agreement with us for the sale of energy?

Unless otherwise agreed with vou, this is the entire agreement between vou and us. The provisions of the Retail Code form the basis of the terms and conditions of this agreement and, where appropriate, we have made reference to the rights and obligations under the Retail Code. Where we have not expressly dealt with a subject in the Retail Code, the rights and obligations in the *Retail Code* are incorporated into this agreement.

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This agreement cannot be inconsistent with the *Retail Code*, and if it is, the relevant term and condition is void, and the term or condition of the *Retail Code* is deemed to form part of this agreement in its place. *We* will provide *you* with a free copy of the *Retail Code* upon request.

#### PART 2: WHAT AND WHEN DO YOU HAVE TO PAY?

We will sell and bill you for energy and other related services, and arrange for the supply of energy to your supply address, and you will pay for the energy and related services supplied to you in accordance with the relevant charges that apply to you. You have 12 business days from the date on the account to pay the total amount owing, including GST.

You must also pay us for any additional retail charges, any other payment referred to in this agreement, or any other goods or services which you acquire from us, and any other charges applied by the distributor for the supply of energy to you. We will provide information on the account that is required by the Retail Code and regulations (as applicable for your agreement with us) including itemised information on the energy you have consumed and your charges, the amount payable, the pay-by date, whether the bill is based on a meter reading or is an estimated bill or (if you have a smart meter) where more than 48 hours of trading intervals have not been billed based on smart meter interval data, telephone numbers for billing and payment enquiries and for faults or emergencies. We will also include a consumption graph on your account where the regulations require.

# 1. What pricing applies to you?

We will charge you either the price published in the Victorian Government Gazette (and on our website) as being relevant to your usage and specified by us, or the amount specially agreed between you and us. The pricing you are charged depends on the purpose of your usage, the nature of any dedicated circuits (such as off-peak appliances) and your network tariff arrangements. You can't use the energy for a different purpose. We may require you to change to a different price applicable to your usage, or we may retrospectively transfer you if you haven't given us notice of change of usage. Where the regulations allow it, the prices may change from time to time. If you are on a standing offer tariff (as published on our website), the regulations provide that we may only vary such tariffs after they have been in place for six months. If we change the price, we will notify you of the changes in accordance with the regulations (which may be by a bill message). Your account will contain charges in proportion to the periods prior to and subsequent to the price change.

Where this agreement refers to a fee or charge other than *our* rates for the supply of energy (such as a reconnection fee or the fee we charge you for checking a meter that is not faulty), the fee or charge will either be set out in *our* fact sheet which is available at www.truenergy. com.au or we will advise *you* of the applicable fee/charge before *you* incur it.

Certain amounts in this agreement are (or will be) stated to be inclusive of GST. These include the amounts specified in *our* fact sheet from time to time.

Apart from these amounts, there may be other amounts paid by *you* or by *us* under this agreement that are payments for 'taxable supplies' as defined for GST purposes.

To the extent permitted by law, the amounts we charge you will be increased by the amount of GST payable on those taxable supplies.

#### 2. How often will *you* receive an account?

We will issue you an account,

- (a) in the case of an electricity agreement, at least every three months:
- (b) in the case of a gas agreement, at least every two months;
- (c) in the case of a *dual fuel agreement*, at least as often as we have agreed with you.

You have a right to reach an agreement with us on shorter regular billing cycles. This can only happen with your consent and may mean a reasonable additional retail charge on your account.

Consistent failure to pay *your* accounts by the pay-by date may lead to *you* being placed on a shortened collection cycle, which *we* will only do in accordance with the *regulations*.

Certain *deemed customers* will continue on their pre-existing billing cycles. Contact *us* to find out if this applies to *you*.

# 3. How can you pay your energy account?

We will provide a range of payment options outlined on your account that includes Australia Post, sending a cheque, or arranging a direct debit from your bank account. Before a direct debit arrangement may be used, you must complete a direct debit request. It will include details of the amounts, preferred date and frequency of direct debits, and how you can cancel the arrangement. We may make other payment methods available. Please check your account for details.

At your request, we will also accept payment in advance.

Where we supply you with both electricity and gas, we will apply payments received from you to charges for the supply or sale of electricity and gas as directed by you. If you are a domestic customer and where you give no direction, we will apply the payment in proportion to the relative value of those charges. We will only impose any late payment fees strictly in accordance with the regulations. Where required under the regulations, we will waive any late payment fee imposed on you. Any late payment fee we charge will be fair and reasonable having regard to costs incurred by us.

### 4. Can *you* have *your* account reviewed?

At your request, we will review an account. While the account is under review, you must pay that part of the account on which we both agree or pay an amount equal to the average of your accounts over the past 12 months (whichever is the lower). You must also pay any future accounts you receive while the account is under review (except any portions of those accounts that you have also asked us to review). If the account is not correct, we will adjust your account. If the account is correct, you must pay the account or request that we arrange a test of your meter in accordance with the regulations. Please also refer to Part 7 of this Customer Charter. If we identify that you have been undercharged, we will include the amount owing and an explanation on an amended account. We will only charge you for amounts undercharged in accordance with the regulations. However, if the undercharging was due to fraud on your part, we are entitled to recover the full amount from you.

If you are overcharged on an account, we will refund you in accordance with the regulations or by agreement with you.

#### 5. How do we calculate your account?

Unless we have your consent to do otherwise, we will base your account on a read of your meter or estimate in accordance with the regulations. If you have a smart meter, we may also base your account on substituted data or other data in accordance with the regulations. However, we will use our best endeavours to read your meter once in each 12-month period. If we have not been able to read your meter because of an act or omission by you, and you request us to replace an estimated bill with a bill based on an actual reading of your meter, we will try and comply with your request but your request may incur an additional retail charge for costs incurred in complying with your request.

If we do estimate your account and afterwards we get a reliable meter reading, we will adjust your account as required by the regulations.

# 6. Is a security deposit<sup>2</sup> required?

For *domestic customers*, we may require a security deposit which is fair and reasonable and as permitted by the *regulations* if *you*:

• still owe an amount of money from a previous address or to *your* previous retailer that exceeds the amount set out in the *regulations*;

The *Retail Code* refers to this as 'refundable advance'.

- have used *energy* unlawfully within the past two years;
- have refused to provide acceptable identification to us as set out in the regulations; or
- have an unsatisfactory credit rating and have not accepted an instalment payment plan when offered.

For business customers, we may require a security deposit if it is fair and reasonable for us to do so.

The amount of the security deposit will be calculated in accordance with the *regulations*. Failure to pay a security deposit upon request may lead to a disconnection of *your energy* supply.

We will use and manage your security deposit in accordance with the regulations.

#### 7. When do we refund your security deposit?

We will use your security deposit and accrued interest to pay any accounts you have outstanding if you are disconnected and do not have the right to be reconnected, or where you leave the supply address, request disconnection or transfer to another retailer. We will provide you with an account of how we have used your security deposit.

Where applicable, we will refund your security deposit and any accrued interest in accordance with the regulations.

#### 8. How do we manage credit and debt collection?

We may seek to carry out a credit check on you and use the information to establish your credit rating. Our credit management and debt collection processes are in accordance with the regulations.

In line with the *regulations*, *we* may report an overdue payment to a credit-reporting agency. *We* may not start legal action to collect money owing while *you* are making payments according to an agreed arrangement.

Where there is a dishonoured payment, we may recover the amount of the dishonoured or reversed payment, plus a reasonable administration fee from you.

# PART 3: DISCONNECTION AND RECONNECTION

#### 1. Why would we disconnect you?

We or your distributor may disconnect your energy supply for the reasons summarised below, but we must first follow the rules set out in the regulations. We will not disconnect you for not paying your account without giving you at least seven business days notice (from the date the notice is sent) of impending disconnection. If you have a smart meter, we may disconnect you remotely. You may also request disconnection of your supply address and finalisation of your account.

In summary, *your energy* supply may be disconnected or interrupted in accordance with the *regulations* for the following reasons:

- for non-payment of an amount exceeding the amount specified by the *regulations*;
- if you do not provide safe and convenient access to the meter in accordance with the regulations;
- for refusal to provide *us* with acceptable identification in accordance with the *regulations*;
- for health and safety reasons;
- for maintenance:
- in an emergency;
- at the direction or request of a *regulator*;

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- if you are using energy in a way that doesn't meet the regulations;
- if *you* are required to give a security deposit in accordance with the *regulations*, and fail to do so; or
- if this agreement has terminated and we are permitted to by the regulations.

If you are not able to pay your account because of insufficient income we will not disconnect your energy supply:

- until we try and contact you and do those things required by the regulations; or
- if you accept an instalment plan within five business days of us having offered the instalment plan to you.

# 2. Are you experiencing payment difficulties?

If you are having trouble paying an account by the pay-by date, you must contact us immediately.

If you are a domestic customer, we will not disconnect you for not paying your account before we have:

- offered *you* an instalment plan or payment arrangement if required by the *regulations*;
- if agreed with *you*, conducted an *energy* efficiency field audit;
- given *you* information on government-funded concessions including the Utility Relief Grant Scheme; or
- met all other requirements under the *regulations*.

# 3. Are there times when you can't be disconnected?

We will not disconnect you:

- if you, or someone living with you depend on a life support machine or have an approved medical exemption;
- if *your* complaint to the Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria, directly related to the reason for disconnection, remains unresolved;
- if your application for an Utility Relief Grant has not been decided;
- for failing to pay us for something other than energy; or
- after 2 pm Monday to Thursday (or 3 pm for *business customers*), or on a Friday, a weekend, a public holiday, or the day before a public holiday, except in the case of a planned interruption or other reasons as required by *your distributor*.

# 4. If you are disconnected, when will we reconnect your energy supply?

We will reconnect your supply address generally on or before the next business day once:

- your account is paid, or agreement with us is reached on how it will be paid;
- you notify us of your application for a grant under a government-funded concession scheme such as the Utility Relief Grant Scheme; or
- the reason for *your* disconnection is otherwise resolved.

A reconnection fee may be charged. Unless otherwise agreed by you:

- if you contact us by 3 pm on a business day, we will reconnect your supply address that day;
- if you contact us after 3 pm and before 9 pm on a business day, you can still be reconnected that day for an after-hours reconnection fee; or
- if your *supply address* can be reconnected remotely and safely, we will use our best endeavours to reconnect your *supply address* within 2 hours of your request.

#### PART 4: HOW TO END THIS AGREEMENT

#### 1. Is there a cooling-off period?

For new customers, you have the right to cancel this agreement within 10 business days (or five business days for energisation contracts or for unplugging or installation of a supply point) of the later of the Start Date or you receive a copy of this agreement. If your agreement with us is an unsolicited consumer agreement under the Competition and Consumer Act, the standard cooling-off period is 10 business days starting the first business day after you have entered into this agreement with us and received a copy of the agreement. You may cancel the agreement within the cooling-off period by providing us with notice which indicates your intention to cancel. If you have consumed energy or other services during that time, you will have to pay us for it unless the agreement is an unsolicited consumer agreement under the Competition and Consumer Act. We are not entitled to charge you any costs or require any compensation resulting from you exercising your right to cancel the agreement within the cooling-off period. Cooling-off periods do not apply for existing or deemed customers.

#### 2. How can *vou* end this agreement?

Once any applicable cooling-off period has ended, you need to give us at least four business days notice in writing to end this agreement unless we have agreed otherwise with you or you are a deemed customer, in which case you need not give us any advance notice. If you have entered into an agreement to purchase energy to which an exit fee applies, you will need to pay us an exit fee if you wish to end the agreement during the period in which the exit fee is applicable, unless:

- prevented by the *regulations*;
- your termination of this agreement is due to a material breach by us; or
- an extended cooling-off period applies under the Competition and Consumer Act.

If your energy agreement contains an exit fee, we will provide you with details of that fee and how it will be calculated prior to entering into to the agreement with you. We will charge you an exit fee in accordance with the regulations. If you wish to transfer to another energy retailer, this agreement will remain in place until you have successfully transferred.

#### 3. How can we end this agreement?

We may terminate this agreement immediately in accordance with the regulations:

- if, having breached this agreement, *you* have been disconnected and *you* no longer have the right to be reconnected, or;
- under the terms of any specific agreement with *you* or *if another retailer* has become *financially responsible* for *your* premises, or;
- your usage means you fall into a different category of customer under the *Retail Code*.

For deemed customers, this agreement will also end if you are no longer a deemed customer under the regulations.

#### 4. What effect does ending this agreement have?

We will not have any further obligation under this agreement to sell you energy, but you will need to pay any outstanding debts. The ending of this agreement doesn't change any rights and obligations that accrued at the time of the termination, and the operation of other clauses continue. For example, you will still need to provide access to your supply address to allow access to the meter.

#### 5. What do you need to know if you are leaving your supply address?

You must give us notification and supply a forwarding address for a final bill at least three business days before you leave your supply address. If you do not notify us, you will remain responsible for the energy consumed at the supply address for three business days after you give us notice (unless evicted or forced to leave, in which case your responsibility ends after you notify us), or until someone else has an agreement for your supply address.

We may offer you the option to transfer this agreement to your new supply address. If we have an agreement with you to supply energy at another supply address, we may include in your account a bill for the amount payable for the energy consumed at your vacated supply address. After successful transfer or upon disconnection (providing this agreement had ended) you will not be required to keep paying for future energy supplied to your former supply address under this agreement.

#### **PART 5: OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### 1. What are *your* other obligations?

You need to:

- apply for *energy*;
- pay any charges including connection and reconnection charges by the due by date;
- provide us with acceptable identification, contact details and the details of the property owner or agent, where the supply address is a rental property;
- provide the information necessary for *energy* to be connected at *your supply address*;
- tell us as soon as possible if your contact details change;
- tell us if you are no longer responsible for paying for energy at your supply address; and
- make sure *you* don't take more *energy* than is allowed by *your distributor* for *your supply address*.

# 2. What additional information can you request?

By contacting *our* customer service centre *you* can receive:

- information on *your* supply;
- accounts and information on how *you* can pay;
- typical running costs of appliances;
- your energy usage and how to save money on your energy;
- a large print copy of this charter;
- as may be required by the *regulations*, a copy of *our* charter in a foreign language;
- a copy of the *Retail Code*, including a large print version;
- information on *our* pricing, including *our* market contract prices;
- historical billing information for *your supply address* for the last two years (a fee may be charged for additional or multiple requests);
- if *you* have a *smart meter*, interval data, which we may provide to *you* in an appropriate format, including in hard copy or electronically;
- for *domestic customers*, a language interpreter service;
- advice on the availability of independent financial counselling;
- information on concessions available to *domestic customers*;
- advice on how to improve *energy* efficiency;
- our additional retail charges, and our other charges: and
- information on network charges.

# 3. What assistance do we provide for account payment?

As a *domestic customer*, if *you* are experiencing payment difficulties and *you* contact *us*, or *we* believe *you* are experiencing repeated payment difficulties and contact *you*, *you* have a right to:

• have *your* financial circumstances and hardships taken into account when negotiating instalment plans or other payment arrangements;

 receive a summary on request as to how your financial circumstances and payment capacity have been assessed;

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- services that make paying *your energy* accounts easier we offer *you* payment options and instalment plans that take into account *your energy* needs and capacity to pay;
- be advised of the availability of an independent financial counsellor;
- a home *energy* audit (a fee may be charged for this service);
- receive information on the Utility Relief Grant Scheme managed by the Department of Human Services; and
- information on government-funded winter *energy* concessions.

If you are a business customer, we will consider any reasonable request from you for (and may impose a reasonable additional retail charge on you if you enter into) an instalment plan.

#### PART 6: WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED

We try hard to ensure that problems don't arise. The good news is that when problems do arise, we have a clear and simple way to resolve them. We want you to tell us about your problem and we will make every effort to resolve it immediately at your initial contact. We will continue to work with you until the problem is resolved to your satisfaction.

Where concerns remain, *your* problem will be referred to *our* Customer Relations Unit, which will review the case and notify *you* of a decision. Some matters, such as *energy* supply quality problems, will have to be referred to a *distributor* and may take a longer time to resolve due to their technical nature. *We* will advise *you* where there is likely to be a significant delay in investigating *your* problem, and will provide *you* with details of when *we* expect to have a resolution and how to contact *us* in the meantime.

In all cases *you* should talk to *us* first. It speeds resolution and allows timely review of the matter, allowing *us* to make improvements for the benefit of all *our* customers. In the event that *you* are still not satisfied, *you* can refer *your* problem – free of any charge – to the *Energy* and Water Industry Ombudsman Victoria (EWOV), an independent dispute resolution scheme.

#### PART 7: LOOKING AFTER YOUR METER

### 1. What do we do to connect you?

If you have applied for connection or your energy agreement becomes effective, no later than the next business day we will ask your distributor to connect your supply address as soon as possible.

# 2. What is *your* assigned meter identifier?

Your assigned meter identifiers are unique numbers on your property that identify your electricity and gas meters. They will appear on your energy account.

# 3. What should you do if you think that your meter is faulty?

You may ask us to test the meter at your supply address. If the meter is recording correctly within the regulations, you will be charged for the test.

#### 4. What do *you* need to know about property access and meter responsibility?

We must have safe, convenient and unhindered access to your premises to read, install, remove or inspect the meter, connect or disconnect the energy supply, inspect or test the energy installation, prune or clear vegetation, and undertake repairs or maintenance. Our representatives must always carry or wear official identification and show it to you on request.

Where there is something at *your supply address* that may be a danger, *you* must inform *us* and take action to minimise the danger to *our* representatives. *You* must keep the meter safe from hazards and interference. *You* do not own the meter or any part of the *energy* distribution system.

#### PART 8: CAN THIS AGREEMENT BE CHANGED?

If you request, we will provide you with information on the prices we can offer you in accordance with the regulations. We can change the prices from time to time in line with the regulations and we will notify you of changes as set out in Part 2 of this agreement.

We may agree with you to a variation to this standard agreement provided that we have received your explicit informed consent. If we enter into a variation with you, we will provide you with details in writing.

In any case, these terms and conditions may be changed from time to time, after we have published the changes in the Government Gazette and complied with any other requirements in the regulations and, where required, we have received the consent of the ESC. If this happens, the changes will take effect from the time set out in the variation that has been published. We will make sure that we notify you of any changes.

#### PART 9: IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE WE NOT LIABLE?

The quality, frequency and continuity of supply of *energy* is subject to a variety of factors outside of *our* control, for example, accidents, weather and the acts of third parties such as other customers, generators, electricity distribution and transmission owners, gas production facilities and pipeline owners, and *regulators*.

The nature of *energy* supply is such that *we* cannot guarantee to *you* the quality, frequency or the continuity of supply of *energy* to *you*, but this agreement does not vary or exclude any immunity, limitation of liability or indemnity that may be provided in the *regulations*.

Variations in voltage are an inherent characteristic of electricity supply involving a rapid decrease (dip) or increase (spike) in voltage and cannot be completely prevented. Variations in voltage can be in excess of the voltage range tolerated by domestic appliances and business equipment, and may cause damage. Variations in gas pressure may also cause damage or interruption to supply.

If you do suffer any loss, damage or harm as a result of a variation in voltage you may be able to receive compensation from your distributor (refer to your Distribution Charter for more information).

We are responsible for loss or damage suffered by you as a result of:

- our breach of a condition, warranty or statutory guarantee under the Competition and Consumer Act; and
- *our* breach of this agreement and *our* negligence.

Subject to the statement above, we are not liable for:

- any loss or damage *you* suffer arising from:
  - any fluctuation or distortion (in voltage magnitude, voltage waveform or frequency) or variation or interruption to the supply of electricity or gas or from any such supply not being or remaining continuous;
  - us discontinuing the supply of electricity or gas in accordance with the terms of this contract; or
  - any act or omission of *your distributor*;
- loss or damage that was not reasonably foreseeable;
- loss or damage that was not caused by *our* breach of this agreement or by our negligence;
- any increase in loss or damage that was caused by your breach of contract or your negligence;
   or
- business losses (such as lost data, lost profits or business interruptions) or loss suffered by non-consumers.

• You must take reasonable steps to mitigate the extent of any loss or damage you may suffer as a result of the provision of services under this agreement. If you are a business customer, you must also take reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of loss or damage to your equipment, premises or business that may result from quality, frequency, pressure or reliability of energy supply.

We confirm that nothing in this energy agreement varies or excludes the operation of:

- section 120 of the National Electricity Law; or
- sections 232 or 233 of the Gas Industry Act 2001 or section 33 of the Gas Safety Act 1997.

#### 1. When can we claim indemnity from you?

You must indemnify us for any breach by you of this agreement or your negligence to the maximum amount for which we are entitled to be compensated under the common law (including in equity) or statute for your breach or negligence.

### 2. Who is liable if a force majeure event occurs?

A force majeure event is an event that occurs which is outside both our and your reasonable control (such as an accident, drought, industrial action or other unavoidable cause) and would result in us or you being in breach of this agreement (for example, we may be unable to supply you energy) other than an obligation to pay money.

If a force majeure event has occurred,

- (a) the affected party will not be in breach of this agreement for non-performance of the obligations to the extent caused by the *force majeure event* for as long as it continues.
- (b) that affected party must use its best endeavours to promptly notify the other party of the kind of *force majeure event*, the time it is expected to continue for, and how the *force majeure event* will result in a breach of this agreement. Where the *force majeure event* is widespread (for example, if *we* are unable to arrange for the supply of *energy* to many of *our* customers) *we* will comply with this obligation by making the necessary information available to *you* on *our* 24-hour telephone service within 30 minutes of being advised of the *force majeure event* or otherwise as soon as practicable.
- (c) the affected party must also use its best endeavours to remove, overcome or minimise the effects of the *force majeure event* (although neither *you* nor *we* are required to settle an industrial dispute if that is the *force majeure event*).

#### PART 10: OTHER RULES THAT APPLY

#### 1. How are greenhouse gas emissions presented on my electricity bill?

Greenhouse gas emissions connected to *your* electricity plan are presented on *your* electricity bill in accordance with the Essential Services Commission Electricity Industry Guideline No.13 Greenhouse Gas Disclosure on Electricity Customers Bills. If *you* would like to view a copy of this guideline refer to *our* website.

#### 2. Are there other rules that apply to this agreement?

This agreement is subject to any relevant *regulations*, and *you* and *we* both agree to comply with all requirements in the *regulations*, except to the extent modified by *your* agreement with *us* where that is permitted by the *regulations*. *You* must co-operate with *us* and the *distributor* in the exercise of powers, rights or obligations under this agreement or the *regulations*. In particular, the *Retail Code* sets out *our* obligations to *you*, and *your* obligations to *us*. This agreement is subject to any minimum requirements set out in the *Retail Code*. If there have been changes to the *Retail Code* which make any part of this agreement inconsistent with the *Retail Code*, the relevant part or section of the *Retail Code* will take precedence over the terms of this agreement.

A range of other laws including consumer protection laws under the *Competition and Consumer Act*, guidelines and the terms of our retail licences govern your energy supply.

### 3. What happens if *you* have special medical needs?

If you or someone you live with requires a life support machine, or your address is registered as a medical exemption supply address, and you provide us with the necessary documentary confirmation, we will make special arrangements to ensure your energy supply is not disconnected and that you are given notice of any planned interruption as required under the regulations.

#### 4. How we protect the privacy of *your* information

We comply with the Privacy Act's standards of collection, disclosure and access of personal information. We collect your personal information where it is related to one or more of our business activities. This collection will always be by lawful means and the purpose of the collection shall always be clear and explicit.

You have a right to have your personal information kept confidential. Unless otherwise allowed through the regulations, we must not give out information about you, except where you have agreed that we may do so. We will use your personal information in order to sell and deliver and market energy to you, or as required or permitted by the regulations. Personal information is shared within our group of companies and with other service providers to the extent required to undertake these activities.

Where we are permitted to by the regulations, we may provide you with information on other services or products available to our customers. You may advise us if you don't want to receive this information.

If you believe the information we have about you is incorrect, you can ask for it to be changed. If we make a decision about you, or affecting you, you can ask to see the information about you on which our decision is based, and you can ask us to provide you with a written reason for the decision.

Further information on privacy matters can be obtained by applying in writing to:

The Privacy Officer

**TRUenergy** 

Locked Bag 14060

Melbourne City Mail Centre 8001

or visit us at http://www.truenergy.com.au/privacy.xhtml

# 5. What happens if *you* tamper with the meter?

You are not allowed to take *energy* illegally, or to tamper with or bypass the meter or associated equipment. If you have, we will estimate the consumption and you will need to pay for it. If you have damaged equipment belonging to us or third parties, you will be liable for repair or replacement costs.

#### 6. How can this agreement be transferred?

We may assign this agreement to another party in the event that we transfer all or substantially all of our retail sales business. We will give you notice of this. Any new agreement created under this clause will be on the same terms as this agreement. Otherwise we will only assign your agreement with your consent. You need to get our consent if you want to assign this agreement.

# **PART 11: CUSTOMER AGREEMENTS**

#### 1. Who is a Deemed Customer?

If you have previously been an electricity customer of ours prior to 1 January 2001 or a gas customer of ours prior to 1 September 2001, the government has provided that an agreement is deemed to exist with us, as detailed in this document. We will notify you if we change the terms and conditions of the deemed agreement. The price which you pay for energy is the standing offer tariff which is published on our website. We will notify you of any changes to it in or with the next bill you receive after the change takes effect.

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You may choose to enter into a market contract with us or another retailer on different terms and conditions or remain on the standing offer tariff. Your deemed contract will end if you move to a supply address for which we are not the FRMP, if you have chosen to enter into a different agreement, or as determined by the government.

### 2. Who is a Standing Offer Customer?

For new customers moving into premises for which we are the FRMP, who do not wish to enter a market contract, the ESC has approved standing offer terms and conditions as contained in this document.

This contract will end when *you* move premises or accept a market-based contract. The price which *you* pay for *energy* is the standing offer tariff which is published on *our* website. *We* will notify *you* of any changes to it in or with the next bill *you* receive after the change takes effect.

#### 3. Who is a Market Contract Customer?

You may choose to sign an *energy* market contract with *us* in which there are some variations to the terms and conditions in this Customer Charter. The contract will begin after *we* have received *your* explicit informed consent and will end according to conditions specified in the terms and conditions. Market contracts are not required to be published and are not approved by the government but are still subject to the *Retail Code*, *regulations* and other laws.

# 4. How do we send notices to each other?

We may give you notices in writing only. Notices may be delivered by hand, by fax, by mail or by email to the address last notified to each other. Also we may give certain notices by publishing the notice in a newspaper circulating generally in Victoria.

#### PART 12: DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS AGREEMENT

'additional retail charge' means a charge relating to the supply and sale of energy by us to you other than a charge based on the price applicable to you. To avoid doubt, any network charge or other charge relating to the supply, but not sale, of energy to your supply address is not an additional retail charge, such as any charges levied by the distributor and approved by the ESC. Any amount payable by you to us for your breach of your energy agreement is not an additional retail charge.

#### 'assigned meter identifier' means:

- for electricity, the National Meter Identifier (NMI) assigned to *your* metering installation; and
- for gas, the Meter Installation Reference Number (MIRN) assigned to *your* metering installation.

'business customers' has the same meaning as in the Retail Code.

'Competition and Consumer Act' means the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) and any other applicable consumer protection laws.

'deemed customers' means customers deemed by the regulations to have entered into an energy agreement with us on the these terms and conditions and includes, where applicable, default customers (being customers who have moved into an address without having a contract). Deemed agreement has a corresponding meaning.

'domestic customers' has the same meaning as in the Retail Code.

'distributor' means the entity who owns or operates the distribution system through whose network your supply address is provided with energy.

'dual fuel agreement' means an agreement between you and us that allows us to synchronise the billing cycles in your electricity and gas agreements.

'emergency' means an emergency or intervention in the market or direction requiring interruption, curtailment or disconnection due to the actual or imminent occurrence of an event which in any way endangers or threatens to endanger the safety or health of any person or which destroys, damages or threatens to destroy or damage any property, or anything which we, the distributor or the regulator or any authority under the regulations considers to be an emergency in their absolute discretion.

'energisation contract' means an electricity contract under which, or in connection with, the customer's supply address must be connected and all that is required to effect the connection is the insertion of a fuse or the operation of switching equipment which results in there being a non-zero voltage beyond the point of supply.

'energy' means gas, electricity or both depending on what we supply you with.

**'ESC'** means the Essential Services Commission.

'force majeure event' means anything beyond the reasonable control of a party and includes any industrial action or labour disputes.

'FRMP' means Financially Responsible Market Participant.

'late payment fee' means an amount payable by vou to us where vou have failed to meet vour obligation to pay an amount by the pay by date on our initial bill.

'regulations' means any acts, rules, regulations, orders, guidelines, licences or codes, including the Retail Code and the like, that regulate the parties or the energy industry in Victoria, as varied or replaced from time to time.

'regulator' means any body with whose directions or requests we or other parties are required to comply under the *regulations* and includes, without limitation the *ESC*.

'relevant customers' has the same meaning as in the Retail Code.

'Retail Code' means the Energy Retail Code issued by the ESC, as amended from time to time.

'smart meter' means an interval meter designed to transmit data to a remote locality, as defined in the Retail Code.

'standing offer customer' means a person who accepts a standing offer made by us pursuant to the regulations.

'start date' means the date these terms and conditions replace our current terms and conditions for *energy* sale and supply, or for a new customer, the date this agreement commences as follows:

- for current deemed customers (other than those deemed customers who are default customers) and standing offer customers, these terms and conditions will take effect on and from 8 April 2012;
- for deemed customers who are default customers, the date you are deemed to have entered (b) into this agreement by the regulations; and
- for new energy customers, the earlier of: (c)
  - the date we accept your application and record you as our customer in our records; (i)
  - any specific start date we agree; or (ii)
  - the date on which your assigned meter identifier has been transferred to us.

'supply address' means the address for which you have agreed to or are deemed by the regulations to purchase energy from us.

'TRUenergy', 'us', 'our', 'ours', or 'we' means TRUenergy Pty Ltd, ABN 99 086 014 968.

'You' (or 'your') means the person who has accepted (or has been deemed to have accepted) this agreement, including any preceding versions of this agreement, and you are a relevant customer and/or a *domestic* or small *business customer* in accordance with the *regulations*.

In this agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- headings are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of any part of this (a) agreement;
- (b) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- an expression importing a natural person includes any company, partnership, trust, joint (c) venture, association, corporation or other body corporate and any government agency and vice versa, and that person's executors, administrators, successors, substitutes (including, without limitation, persons taking by novation) and permitted assigns;

- (d) other parts of speech and grammatical forms of a word or phrase defined in this agreement have a corresponding meaning;
- (e) an event which is required under any term or condition set out in this agreement to occur on or by a stipulated day which is not a business day may occur on or by the next business day;
- (f) we are not in a position to connect, disconnect or reconnect the system at your supply address to a distributor's distribution system. A reference in a term or condition set out in this agreement to us connecting, disconnecting or reconnecting you is to be construed in accordance with the Retail Code;
- (g) a reference to any party, authority, agreement, document, legislation, regulation, code or anything similar includes any successor to that person, authority or item;
- (h) if the customer consists of more than one person, each person is jointly or severally bound by the obligations under the terms of this agreement; and
- (i) where this agreement requires or permits *us* to perform an action or to use confidential information, then *we* may perform the action or use the confidential information through an agent, contractor or a related company.

The laws of Victoria govern this agreement.

#### WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

# 1. TRUenergy

Customer service and account enquiries: 133 466

Supply and maintenance (24 hrs): 133 466

Telephone Interpreter service: 131 450

TTY (for hearing impaired customers): 1300 368 536

Locating your network provider: 133 466

# 2. Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria

Reply Paid 469, Melbourne, Victoria 8060

Freecall (except mobile phones): 1800 500 509

Telephone Interpreter service: 131 450 National Relay Service: 133 677

TTY (for hearing-impaired customers): 1800 555 677 then 1800 500 529

Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727 then 1800 500 509 Internet Relay: Connect to the NRS then 1800 500 509

Email: ewovinfo@ewov.com.au

# 3. Essential Services Commission

Level 2, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000

Enquiries: 1300 664 969

Interstate and mobile phone: +61 3 9651 0222

www.esc.vic.gov.au

#### 4. Department of Primary Industries

DPI Information Centre,

GPO Box 4440, Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Freecall (except mobile phones): 136 186

Interstate and mobile phone: +61 3 5332 5000

# 5. Department of Human Services

50 Lonsdale St, Melbourne, Victoria 3000

Utility Relief Grant forms and Concessions enquiries: 1800 658 521 or

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/concessions Email: concessions@dhs.vic.gov.au

TRUenergy Pty Ltd ABN 99 086 014 968 Level 33, 385 Bourke Street Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Enquiries 133 466 www.truenergy.com.au TE01002-CCVIC6 04/12 This page was left blank intentionally

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