

## **ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE CODE – INDEPENDENT COMPLIANCE AUDIT GUIDELINES - NOTICE**

The purpose of this notice is to advise that the Commission is proposing to publish Independent Compliance Audit Guidelines in accordance with the Electricity Industry Performance Code (EIP Code) and the *Utilities Commission Act 2000* (NT), and is seeking stakeholder feedback from all electricity entities on the associated draft Guidelines.

Under the EIP Code, electricity entities are required to submit to the Commission a report on their actual performance in the financial year against the performance indicators set out in the EIP Code (generators and retailers must submit their report by 31 August and network entities must submit their report by 31 October).

Clause 6.1.1(a) of the EIP Code requires an electricity entity to periodically collect and maintain data (in connection with the target standards, performance indicators or reporting requirements) as is reasonably sufficient for the purpose of complying with its obligations under the EIP Code, and enabling the Commission to perform its functions under the EIP Code.

To ensure compliance with clause 6.1.1(a), clause 6.2 of the EIP Code places an obligation on electricity entities to undertake an independent audit at least once every three years for each performance indicator that the electricity entity is required to report against.

The intent of the draft Guidelines is to assist electricity entities in meeting its clause 6.2 EIP Code obligation, noting the first auditing period is from 2017-18 to 2019-20, and every three years thereafter. Schedule 5 of the EIP Code states that for the first review, the audit may be undertaken for either one of 2017-18 or 2018-19 or 2019-20 financial years. All subsequent audits are to be for all three financial years that make up the auditing period.

Subject to feedback on the draft Guidelines, it is anticipated the first independent audit will be due to the Commission by 30 November 2020 (for generation and retail entities) and 31 January 2021 (for network entities).

Accordingly, the Commission invites all stakeholders to provide feedback through a submission on the draft Guidelines by 28 July 2020.