



16 February 2018

Ms Louise Lilley
Macroeconomic Modelling and Policy Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Submitted by email: statsdetermination@treasury.gov.au

Dear Ms Lilley

Consultation Paper on the Proposal to remake the Statistics Determination 1983

Energy Queensland Limited and its related entities (the Energy Queensland Group) welcome the opportunity to comment on the Consultation Paper on the Proposal to remake the *Statistics Determination 1983* (the Determination).

Energy Queensland would be pleased to discuss any of these comments further. Please contact me on 07 3851 6716 or by email at esther.watson@energyq.com.au.

Proposed change A Release of information already available to the public

Energy Queensland supports the proposed change to release information already available to the public.

Proposed change B.i Release of greater range of business characteristics to a broader range of recipients in the form of a list of businesses

- A. Proposal to replace the specified business characteristics with a flexible approach that enables the release of all business characteristics that are collected.

Energy Queensland supports the proposed change B.i.(a) to the extent that the release is in relation to business characteristics that are publicly available e.g. ABN.

- B. Enable release of the above information to a broader group of users including the research sector.

Energy Queensland supports the proposed change B.i.(b) to the extent that the release is in relation to business characteristics that are publicly available e.g. ABN.

Proposed change B.ii Simplify the current notification process

Energy Queensland supports the proposed change to the extent it relates to the information that is already publicly available.

Proposed change C Release of information about government businesses

Energy Queensland supports the current Determination which does not enable the ABS to release identifiable information about Government Business Enterprises (GBEs) in the same manner as it releases identifiable information about other government entities.

In our view, GBEs should be distinguished from other government entities due to the special circumstances of GBEs operating in a commercially-focused environment. GBEs make a significant contribution to the Australian economy by supporting productivity, job creation and Government policy objectives.

Energy Queensland recognises the importance to improve the public's understanding of how GBEs contribute to the Australia economy. To ensure greater public accountability, GBEs are already required to prepare a Statement of Corporate Intent (SCI) in consultation with Shareholder Ministers. A GBE also has specific reporting and disclosure of information requirements and is subject to legislation that places various additional obligations on it in relation to information management.

Energy Queensland refers to the Consultation Paper's reference that the proposed changes are underpinned by a policy position that the release of information about businesses and organisations should not be likely to adversely impact on their operations. In this respect, Energy Queensland respectfully submits a revision to 'Proposed Change C' to enable ABS to release identifiable information about a GBE once the GBE has provided consent for that information to be released to that user.

Proposed change D.i Release of detailed business information with consent

Subject to consent being provided prior to release, Energy Queensland would support this change to release detailed business information.

Proposed change D.ii Access to an increased range of de-identified unit record level business information

Subject to consent being provided prior to release, Energy Queensland would support this change to release information that may enable indirect identification of a business or organisation.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07 3851 6716.

Yours sincerely



Esther Watson
Corporate Governance Manager
Energy Queensland Limited