

# METERING OVERVIEW

## Advanced meters

The majority of residential and small business consumers in Australia have their electricity use measured by basic accumulation meters that have limited functionality. This results in them having limited information from which to make informed decisions about their electricity usage and costs.

Advances in metering technology, and the energy products and services this technology supports, can give customers more choice and control. With the right technology, information and price signals, consumers are better able to make decisions about how and when they use electricity, and manage the costs of these decisions.

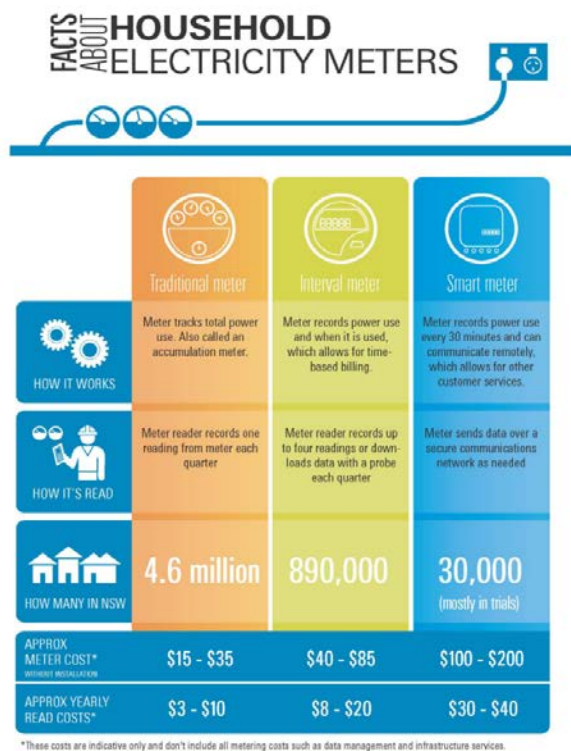
The current regulatory framework does not make it easy for consumers to access advanced metering technology but a rule change due to take effect on 1 December 2017 should increase competition in the market and make it easier for consumers to obtain advanced meters.



## Types of meters

The type of electricity meter a customer has is important in determining the tariff(s) to which a customer can be allocated. There are many different types of meters, however they can be broadly classed into the following four groups:

1. Basic accumulation meters (also known as Type 6 meters) – These meters measure only the total amount of electricity consumed over a period and are manually read by a meter reader. There are two types of meters within this category: those that record total usage within set periods (these can be aligned to a Time of Use tariff); and those that record only total usage. Most residential and small business meters within Essential Energy's network area are this type of meter.
2. Type 5 meters – These meters record electricity consumption in 30 minute intervals and are manually read by a meter reader.\*
3. Interval meters – These meters record how much electricity is used in every 30 minute interval and the associated demand. This allows customers to select a tariff that has different rates for usage at different times of the day. These meters have communications attached so are remotely read and are known as Type 1 to 4 meters.
4. Smart Meters (also known as Advanced Meters) – these meters record customer usage and demand in real time and are remotely read in 30 minute intervals. Smart Meters can be linked to in-home devices to allow customers to make informed decisions about their electricity consumption.



\*Under Part A of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Metrology Procedure, Sects 2.4.16 and 2.4.18 customers consuming more than 100MWh pa must have at least an Interval Meter.

To find out what type or meter you currently have and to make enquiries about what options are available to you in the future please contact your energy retailer. For more information on changes in the regulatory framework for metering services go to: <http://www.aemc.gov.au/Rule-Changes/Expanding-competition-in-metering-and-related-serv>