1. Falling technology costs are making small-scale renewables and complementary battery storage devices an attractive proposition for households and businesses to manage their electricity use. However, for customers who receive the Solar Bonus Scheme (SBS) premium feed-in tariff, a lack of clarity in the SBS rules is potentially stifling uptake of secondary systems and battery technology.
2. The Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2017(the Bill) amends the *Electricity Act 1994* to clarify when additional generation systems and electricity storage devices can be deployed in association with the SBS. These amendments align with the intent of the SBS, which was that generation from a qualifying generator would be used in customers’ homes and businesses first with any excess beyond normal consumption to be exported.
3. Embedded networks are private electricity networks that serve multiple premises and are connected to the electricity grid via a single (main) connection point. Common examples include caravan parks, apartment complexes and industrial parks. In December 2017, changes to the National Electricity Rules will clarify the regulatory arrangements for retail competition for customers in embedded networks. Once implemented, embedded network customers will be able to choose the price and price structure of their electricity service from a wider variety of products and services, and gain easier access to government schemes and consumer protections
4. The Bill amends the *Electricity Act 1994* and other legislation to enable the effective implementation of the new national regulatory framework.
5. The consequential amendments in the Bill aligns Queensland with other jurisdictions and remove inconsistency with the new national arrangements. The amendments would also enable eligible embedded network customers who choose a retailer to access the Queensland Energy and Water Ombudsman’s dispute resolution services, as other customers can.
6. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2017 into the legislative assembly.
7. *Attachments*
* [Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2017](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)