

Policy mobilities: the case of smart meters in Australia



*Assoc Prof Heather Lovell
University of Tasmania
Institute of Australian Geographers Conference
Canberra, 1st-3rd July 2015*





i-Credit 500

3200
imp/unit

00000000 kVAh
00 Hz kWh
•E1▶R3 L1 ON ON
•E2▶R3 L2 ON SP-ARMED OFF
LAN WAN
+ HAN

Config

Scroll

SECURE

1 Phase, 2 Wire, 240V, 10-100A, CI 1.0, 50Hz

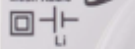
USM82012



Type Code: E1E102
1E/2E, Year 2009
Integrated Communication:
Mesh Radio LAN ZigBee™ HAN WAN Port

Service disconnect
relay : 100Amps
Load control relay
SW1(L1): 21.5Amps

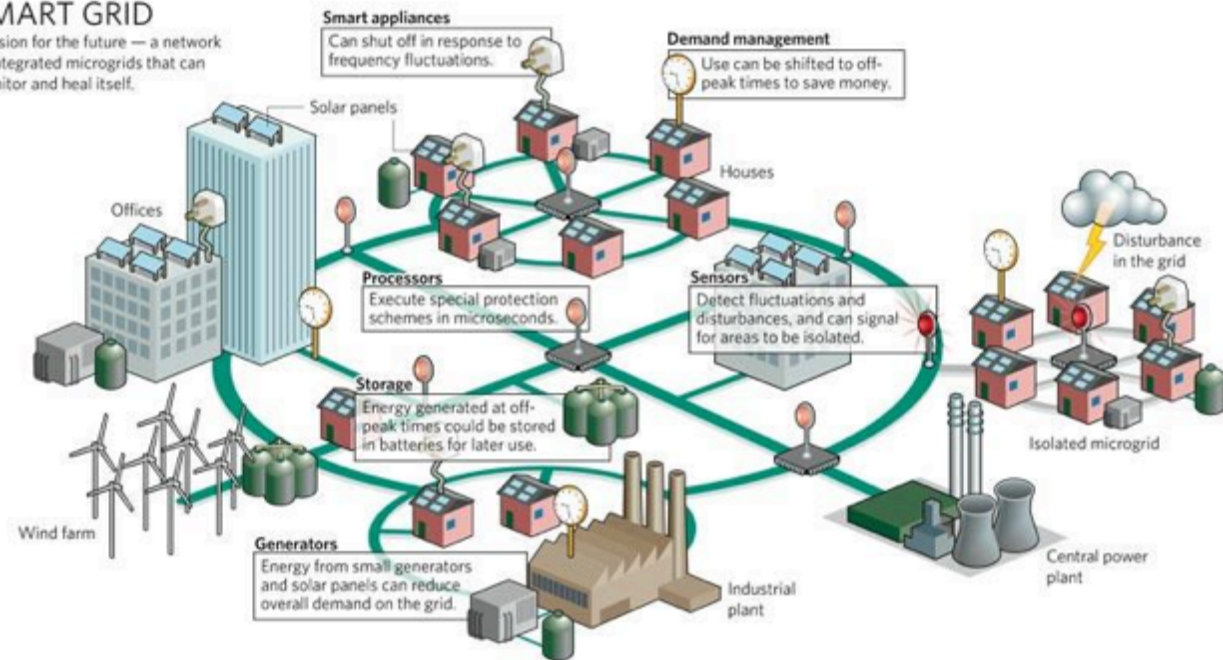
SILVER SPRING



Mesh Radio
Li
N22834


SMART GRID

A vision for the future — a network of integrated microgrids that can monitor and heal itself.



“Our national electricity system is like an old car. It works, but could be more efficient, and is sometimes unreliable. Like a modern car, a smart grid conducts regular checks to make the electricity system work smarter and better, reducing running costs in the long term and responding to changing conditions and emergency situations.”

Towards a 'smart grid'
The roll-out of Advanced Metering Infrastructure



RULE CHANGE

Australian Energy Market Commission


DRAFT RULE DETERMINATION

National Electricity Amendment (Expanding competition in metering and related services) Rule 2015

National Energy Retail Amendment (Expanding competition in metering and related services) Rule 2015

Rule Proponent
COAG Energy Council

26 March 2015



Australian Energy Market Commission

FINAL REPORT

Power of choice review - giving consumers options in the way they use electricity

30 November 2012




ARUP ENERGEA frontier

**Smart Grid, Smart City:
Shaping Australia's
Energy Future**

National Cost-Benefit Assessment

Tasmanian Energy Strategy
Draft for public comment

**Restoring Tasmania's
Energy Advantage**

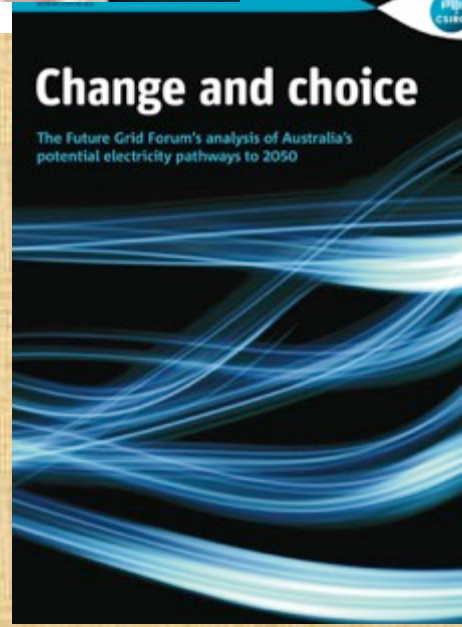


STATE OF THE ENERGY MARKET 2014



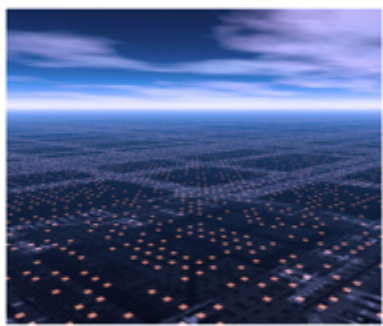
Change and choice

The Future Grid Forum's analysis of Australia's potential electricity pathways to 2050



Department of Resources Energy and Tourism

National Smart Meter Infrastructure Report



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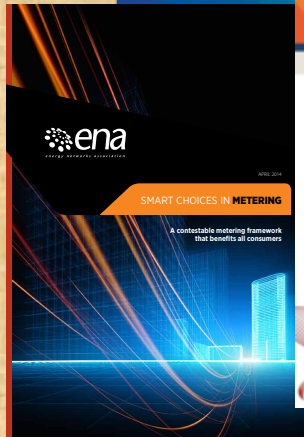
Submitted: 4 February 2010

Version: 1.3

ena
ENERGY NETWORK AUSTRALIA

SMART CHOICES IN METERING

A contestable metering framework that benefits all consumers




**MINIMUM FUNCTIONALITY OF
ADVANCED METERS**

ADVICE TO COAG ENERGY COUNCIL

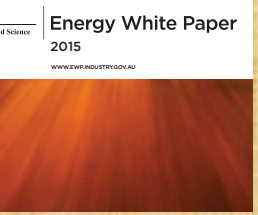
November 2014

AEMO



Energy White Paper
2015

www.ewp.industry.gov.au



ARC *Future Fellowship*, 2015-19

- How is learning is taking place from the early implementation of smart grids in Australia, and with what effect?
- contributes to 2 broad strands of scholarship about *innovation* from **policy studies** and **science and technology studies**
- aims to rectify a lack of attention to **geography** and the particularities of place that is common to both sets of theory



What I will cover

1. Policy mobility – key ideas
 - Australian smart meter policy
2. Conclusions

Theories of
policy change

*Policy
mobilities*

Mobilities

Science &
Technology
Studies

Policy mobility: key ideas

1. Globalisation and 'fast policy'
2. New sites of policy making
3. Role of non-state policy actors
4. Context matters

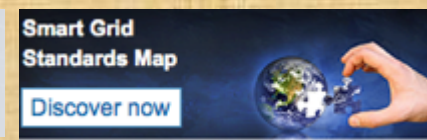


1. Globalisation and 'fast policy'

“...networks of policy advice, advocacy, and activism now exhibit a precociously transnational reach; policy decisions made in one jurisdiction increasingly echo and influence those made elsewhere; and global policy ‘models’ are exerting normative power over significant distances.”

(Peck 2011: pp773).

- **International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN)** “... a mechanism for multilateral government-to-government collaboration *to advance the development and deployment* of smarter electric grid technologies, practices, and systems. It aims to improve the understanding of smart grid technologies, practices, and systems *and to promote adoption of related enabling government policies.*” (emphasis added, <http://www.iea-isgan.org/?c=1>)
- **The Global Smart Grid Federation** aims to: “... *Support rapid implementation of Smart Grid technologies...*” and to “*Foster the international exchange of ideas and best practices on energy issues* “ (emphasis added, <http://www.globalsmartgridfederation.org/about-gsgf/>).

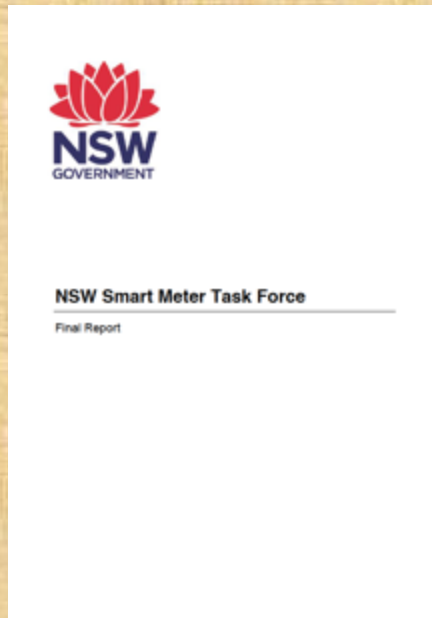


“Case studies offer the reader points of comparison but, more importantly, tell stories in a brief and concise way that makes it easier for the reader to extract key points and gain important insights...This Case Book attempts to structure the case studies *in such a way that their stories can be understood and leveraged by others.*” (pp.2).

2. New sites of policy making

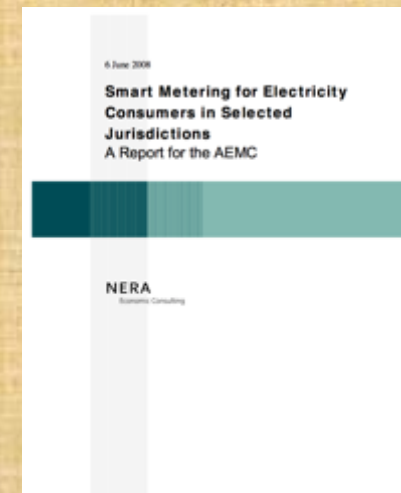


“We think of the situations of policy making, policy learning and policy transfer as not only associated with local places, like government offices, but also with places outside policy actors’ own ‘home’ locations, including ones that are fleeting or mobile, such as conferences, seminars, workshops, guest lectures, fact-finding field trips, site visits, walking tours, informal dinners, among many others.” (McCann & Ward, 2012: 326).



“...my boss at the time [in 2004/05] and [Consultant A] they went off on an international trip and saw lots of the places that we had found out about and talked to people overseas in America and Europe and did have a really good look at some of these overseas [smart metering] examples.”

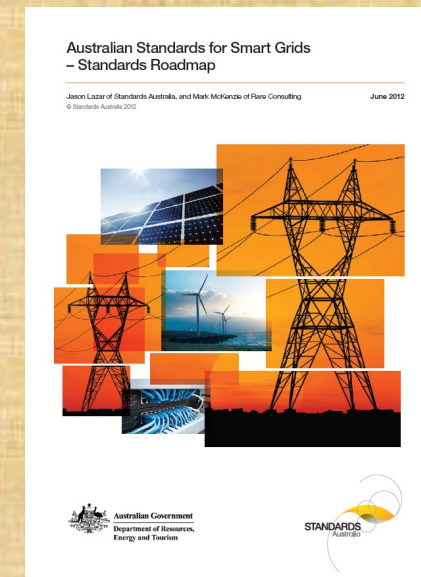
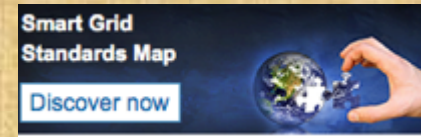
(Interview 015, civil servant, May 2015).



“We went to New Zealand and had a look over there to see how they've done it there. That's been quite influential on the thinking here.”

(Interview 001, state government, April 2015).

3. Role of non-state policy actors



“Today’s ‘fast-policy’ regimes are characterized by... enlarged roles for intermediaries as ‘pushers’ of policy routines and technologies...” (Peck, 2011: 773)



Stop Smart Meters Australia

Fighting for your financial & physical health, privacy, and safety in Australia

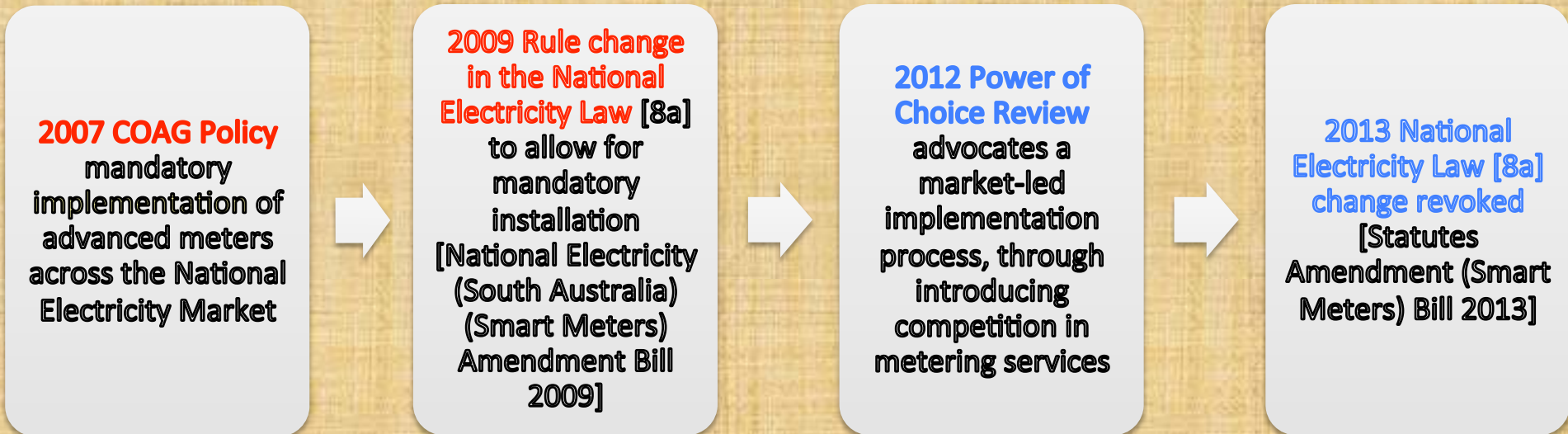


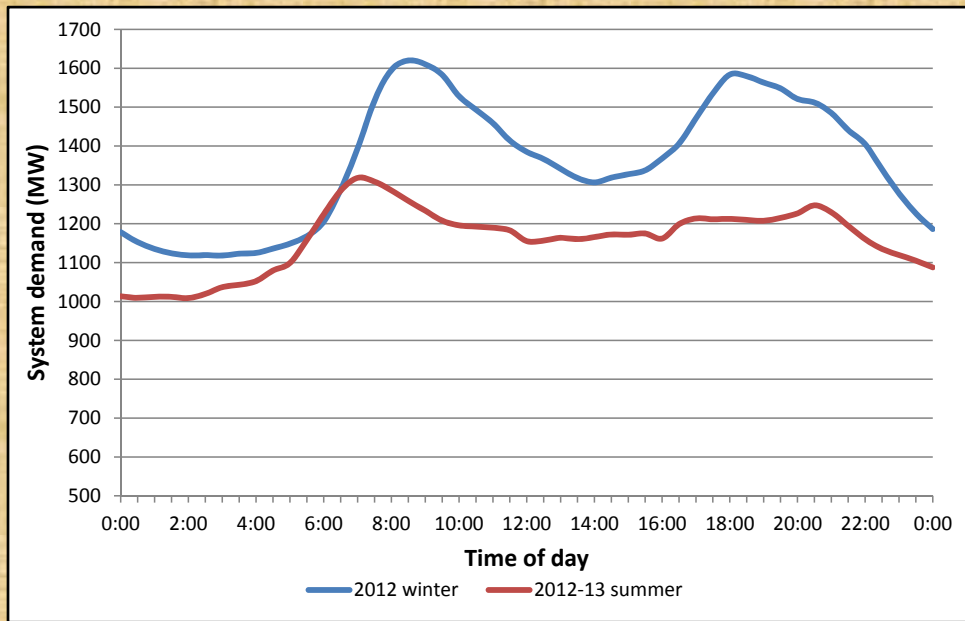
<http://www.peoplepowervictoria.org.au/home>
<http://stopsmartmeters.com.au/>

4. Context matters

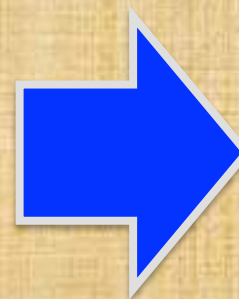
“... context matters, in the sense that policy regimes and landscapes are more than empty spaces across which borrowing and learning take place; they are dynamically remade through the traffic in policy norms and practices...” (Peck 2011: 775).







Tasmanian Electricity demand profile, pp49 Transend 2013 Annual Planning Report





Smart meters are the standard electricity meter in Victoria.

Electricity distributors are installing a smart meter at every home and small business - enabling Victorians to better understand and manage their energy usage.



“Based on the Victorian experience, the Queensland Government has ruled out a mandated rollout of advanced meters in Queensland and will support the customer-driven approach.”

Queensland Government - Department of Energy and Water Supply (2013) *The 30-year electricity strategy Discussion paper: Powering Queensland's future* (pp12)



“The [Tasmanian] Government will not initiate a mandated roll-out of smart meters (such as occurred in Victoria). The government’s position is that any take up of smart meters must be consumer-led, where consumers may choose to have a smart meter in order to enable their preferred retail product.”

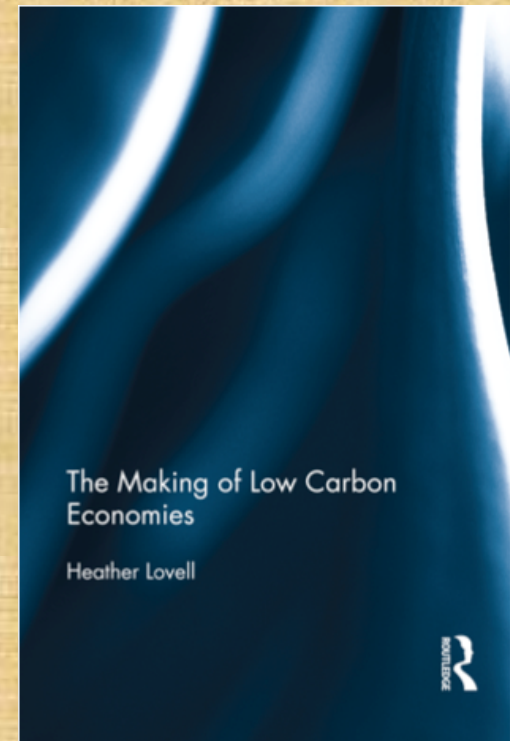
Tasmanian Energy Strategy 2015 (pp20)



3. CONCLUSIONS

- Policy mobility is about the movement of things and ideas > people
- Captures well key features of the smart meter case study: international networks, fast pace of change, policy tourism, role of corporations
- Smart meter policy has been interpreted differently in different states, and has mutated along the way
- Policy mobility has an emphasis on continual movement, but policies also slow down and 'settle' in places – different processes at work

THANK YOU – ANY QUESTIONS?



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