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EDITORIAL

Sweeping changes to the way Australia's energy markets are regulated mean a major shift affecting all energy users around the country.

The move to establish a new, independent regulatory body, the Australian Energy Regulator, promises not only a coordinated approach to Australia's previously fragmented energy markets for the first time, but also a real chance to drive down regulation costs for businesses.

In this edition of *Update*, new AER Chair Steve Edwell looks at what the new regime will mean, how it will affect the energy market and what it will mean for energy users.

We also take a look at how businesses involved in cartels that come forward can protect themselves from ACCC prosecution by applying for immunity, a recently introduced policy designed to help crack open illegal price-fixing deals.

Scam Awareness Month kicks off in February and as well as keeping consumers protected from rip-offs there are several important consumer issues covered such as your rights when dealing with debt and safety alerts for dangerously installed basketball rings.

Also keep an eye out for information on how the tobacco industry is being forced to contribute to the anti-smoking information campaign on low-yield cigarettes.

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