

Date	2 March 2026
Time	11.00 am
Location	Online
Attending organisations	IPART, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, Building Commission NSW, NSW Fair Trading, Clean Energy Council, Solar Accreditation Australia, Justice and Equity Centre, Energy Efficiency Council, Energy Savings Industry Association, Australian and New Zealand Water Heater Association, Lighting Council of Australia, Australian Energy Council
Subject	Energy Security Safeguard Industry Reference Group
Meeting number	1/2026

Agenda

1. Scheme rule changes and reforms
2. Inspections
3. Market update
4. Member spotlight
5. Upcoming dates and events
6. Next meeting

1. Scheme Rule changes and reforms:

NSW Department of Climate Change Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) consultation update

DCCEEW reported a strong stakeholder response from the [Safeguard Rule change](#) and [Safeguard Reforms](#) consultations that closed on 20 February 2026. 150 submissions were received and over 700 people attended 4 webinars. It is currently reviewing submissions, with position papers expected in coming months.

Insulation (DCCEEW):

DCCEEW is assessing potential activation of the New Ceiling Insulation activity under the Energy Savings Scheme in conjunction with the Home Energy Saver Program. Updated energy modelling is complete, and a risk assessment is progressing. Consultation on insulation activities is planned for later this year.

September 2025 Rule change update (IPART):

The Energy Savings Scheme Rule that commenced in September 2025 included discontinuing the Commercial Lighting and Sale of New Appliances methods and certain gas activities (see the [DCCEEW](#) and [IPART](#) websites for more information).

IPART has supported stakeholders by providing guidance, direct communications and updated consumer fact sheets. IPART has also assessed audit deferral requests and issued reminders to help stakeholders identify when changes may impact them and how to comply with monthly reporting requirements, noting there has been poor compliance so far.

IPART has also encouraged the cancellation of inactive accreditations to reduce ongoing administration and costs.

As commercial lighting comes to an end, IPART has reminded Accredited Certificate Providers to watch out for baseline manipulation to ensure upgrades are compliant and to provide sufficient evidence for certificate claims – see [Information on the end of Commercial Lighting](#) for more information.

Renewable Fuel Scheme update (IPART):

In November 2025, the NSW Government passed legislation to commence the Renewable Fuel Scheme on 1 January 2027 and released the NSW Renewable Fuel Strategy. DCCEEW is finalising the rule for green hydrogen, and the Renewable Fuel Scheme will be expanded to include biomethane as an eligible fuel from 2028. See [Renewable Fuel Scheme](#) for more details.

IPART is working with DCCEEW on the legislative framework for the scheme and updating its online system TESSA to develop registry functions. It will soon release preliminary guidance for Scheme Participants and is working with the Clean Energy Regulator to align systems with its [Guarantee of Origin scheme](#).

2. Inspections:

Building Commission NSW:

The Building Commission is continuing its metro and regional inspection program for solar, batteries and heat pump water heaters, conducting over 1200 inspections from September 2025 to January 2026. The main compliance concerns related to labelling and signage, with residual current devices absent or not fit for purpose. It noted compliance in heat pump and battery installations has increased.

Heat pump inspections are expected to increase, with heat pump inspections currently focussed on electrical compliance. However, electrical and plumbing inspectors cross-refer observed non-compliances. The Building Commission noted it has cancelled 2 electricians' licences, and 14 other electricians are being reviewed.

Installer education is a key focus area. Learning modules and technical notes are being developed to address common compliance issues. The modules will be offered through TAFE and include solar and battery modules. It is also partnering with industry associations and plans to roll out webinars and seminars on these issues in regional areas. Solar Accreditation Australia, which accredits solar and battery installers, noted that they would like to work with the Building Commission on installer education programs.

IPART:

IPART inspections are risk based and targeted, drawing on audit outcomes, intelligence, data analytics and identified emerging risks. Inspections target areas that are consistent with published [Compliance Priorities](#) and inform and complement IPART's broader compliance approach. Information from inspections may be used in investigations and other compliance actions and can feed into audits.

IPART battery inspections ceased with suspension of the battery installation activity. Learnings will be used for any future battery activities that are re-introduced. Commercial lighting inspections have scaled up in response to evidence of falsified baselines being used to calculate energy savings and increase certificate creation.

IPART is preparing for inspections of multi-split air conditioning upgrades.

3. Market update, Ric Brazzale, Green Energy Markets

Ric noted Energy Savings Certificates and Peak Reduction Certificate creation and trading have declined following the end of the sale of new appliances method, suspension of the store and shift method and the impending end of commercial lighting, with activity expected to fall well below targets in 2026.

Small scale Technology Certificate creation from heat pump hot water systems has dropped in NSW but battery installations under the Cheaper Home Battery Program have increased significantly and are expected to surge ahead of reductions to federal incentives in May 2026.

4. Member spotlight - ESIA

[The Energy Savings Industry Association \(ESIA\)](#) is the peak national body representing businesses accredited to create and trade in certificates. It recently published a paper setting out its vision for reforming the Energy Savings Scheme to ensure that it continues to deliver lower energy bills for customers and reduces infrastructure cost and emissions - [Reforming the NSW Energy Savings Scheme](#).

ESIA recently welcomed Scott McKenry as its new Executive Director replacing Jessica Lynch. Scott was previously the regional coordinator for the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.

5. Upcoming dates and events

IPART noted upcoming dates:

31 March - Commercial Lighting ends

30 June - Last day for certain Energy Savings Scheme gas activities

12 March - Scheme participants' Peak Demand Reduction Scheme 2024-25 annual statements due

7 May - Scheme penalty payments due for both Safeguard schemes

30 June - ESS certificate registration deadline for 2025 implementations

IPART's 2026 Safeguard Stakeholder Forum will be held on 20 October – *Save the Date!*

6. Next meeting

The next meeting is on 27 July 2026 and will focus on Rule changes and reforms.