



# CUSTOMER NEWS

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## 30 YEARS PER METER

*—and they are accurate*

**About thirty years is the length of service the SEC allows for the meter which measures your electricity consumption. And, according to Harry Bayliff, Metering Engineer at the SEC's largest meter testing section, Richmond, this life span could be considerably more.**

As he says, "When we do retire meters, it's because newer ones of better design are available; not because the old ones are worn out or inaccurate."

Every meter in use must be accurate to the limits set down in the Australian Standards specifications — in practice the SEC tries to keep them even more accurate than the Standard.

The meters used by the SEC are carefully checked before they go into service and experience has shown that failures over their operational lives are quite rare.

Random testing of meters in service has found that a meter going into service with a tolerance set by the SEC can be expected to stay inside the allowable range throughout its working life.

People sometimes suspect their meters when power bills are higher than expected, but the most likely causes are changes in electricity use, such as additional appliances, or perhaps a fault could have developed in an existing appliance.

Harry Bayliff says, "It is extremely rare to find serious inaccuracies in meters, other than those people have tampered with.

"I cannot over-emphasise the point that if your electricity bill is dramatically higher than you expect, it is almost certainly not the fault of your meter. Check your appliances and usage patterns first."

*"Customer News" is issued periodically to keep you informed on what's new with electricity and to assist you in making your contribution to using energy more effectively.*