

## **Opt-Out Notice**

### **FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA APPROVED NOTICE ABOUT THE QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY CLASS ACTION.**

#### **WHAT IS THE CLASS ACTION ABOUT?**

1. The class action argues that electricity costs in Queensland from 2015 to 2021 were inflated because of alleged wrongful conduct by two electricity generation companies in Queensland, Stanwell Corporation Ltd (**Stanwell**) and CS Energy Ltd (**CSE**).
2. The action, which is defended by Stanwell and CSE, claims money for those who paid for electricity in Queensland between 20 January 2015 and 20 January 2021.
3. The solicitors running the case are Piper Alderman Lawyers, and a company called LCM Funding Pty Ltd (**LCM**) is currently funding the legal costs.

#### **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A 'GROUP MEMBER'**

4. If you paid for electricity in Queensland between 20 January 2015 and 20 January 2021, you are a 'group member', unless you opt out as described below.
5. Unless you opt out, the class action will finalise your legal rights in relation to the questions addressed in the class action. If it results in a settlement or judgment for compensation, you may be entitled to a share of that compensation, but if the class action is unsuccessful then you would not be able to run a similar claim yourself.
6. Group members are not responsible for any legal costs just by being group members. The costs are covered by the funder, LCM. If the class action is unsuccessful, LCM will have to pay the class's legal costs and the defendants' legal costs. If the class action is successful, LCM will seek a Court order that a portion of the compensation be used to repay its legal costs, and a further portion to reward it for bearing the risks of the litigation ('**commission**'). The funding agreement provides for a commission of up to 35%, but the eventual rate will be decided by the Court. If the class action is successful, LCM will seek an order that a portion of any compensation payable to group members be used to reimburse LCM for its legal costs and to pay it a commission. That portion will be set by the Court at the level that the Court determines to be just in all the circumstances.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

7. If you are a group member then you have two options:

***Option 1 – do nothing*** - Further notices will be sent to you in due course.

***Option 2 – opt out and cease to be a group member*** - to do this, you need to complete the online form by clicking on this [link](#), or by printing a copy of the form available on this [link](#), and returning it to the Federal Court at the address on the form.

Opting out is a serious step, as you will no longer be covered by the class action. If you think this is something you want to do, it would be a good idea to get legal advice first. Do not ask the Court for legal advice. The Court staff are not allowed to give legal advice.

*Note - if you represent more than one consumer or more than one business and you want each consumer or business that you represent to opt out, you need to provide details for each consumer or business opting out.*

**THIS IS NOT A SCAM** - if you want further information or think you might want to opt out, or you are unsure what to do, you should get legal advice from your own solicitor or ring Piper Alderman on 07 3234 2301.