



“

Q Is it the South Australian Government’s intention to turn air conditioners off or put them into lower power mode?

---

A Some air conditioner types installed after 1 July 2023 need to have demand response capability. If you are a consumer in this situation, it is entirely voluntary if you would like to participate in a demand response program. A demand response service provider – for example an energy retailer or a network operator – would offer and control these programs. Air conditioners installed under these new requirements will be capable of being turned down by these providers to reduced energy consumption modes.

If your air conditioner has been installed any time before 1 July 2023, it will not be affected by the new requirements.

“

Q Who is going to educate the end consumer about the demand response capability requirements and the option to participate in demand response programs?

---

A The Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) is running a consumer campaign on the requirements. Part of this includes an “Information for Consumers” section on the dedicated web page for these requirements. Ultimately the education role will need to be shared between DEM and other stakeholders, including suppliers and manufacturers, installers, and retailers/dealers.

Demand response service providers, such as energy retailers, will educate consumers about participation in demand response programs, if they decide to offer these programs in the future.



“



If participation in demand response programs is voluntary, why do we anticipate that end users would go for it?

---



Demand response programs may provide financial incentives to consumers for shifting their energy usage away from times of high demand on the electricity grid to periods of lower demand.

Additionally, the changes that consumers make through demand response helps deliver a smarter and more flexible electricity grid. They also enable better use of our abundant renewable energy. This delivers more affordable energy for all South Australians.

“



Are these demand response capable air conditioners more expensive?

---



Many air conditioners sold and installed in South Australia already have demand response capabilities. The available range of air conditioners with these capabilities will further increase by 1 July 2023. Comparisons of these air conditioners with similar models that do not have such capability shows there is no clear connection between demand response capability and price.

The Technical Regulator can register air conditioners on the Technical Regulator Compliance List, under three possible compliance categories. Having this range of categories

is designed to balance the South Australian Government's desire to introduce demand response requirements with the need to mitigate any cost-of-living pressures for consumers because of these changes coming.

“



Do the requirements apply to second hand units?

---



The Technical Regulator has revised the Air Conditioner Technical Regulator Guideline to clarify that the requirements will not apply to air conditioners that have been previously installed and used.