

United Energy Memorandum

DATE: March 2020



To:	Meter Providers and REC's
From:	United Energy
Subject	Electricity Meters Installed in Basements

The purpose of this memorandum from United Energy is to remind Meter Providers, REC's and Electrical Consultants of the requirements for external antenna requirements in underground car parks at residential developments.

For background, metering communications equipment forms part of the metering installation requirements in the Victorian Service & Installation Rules. At the design stage of all electrical installations, consideration shall be given to the amount of space required and location for the metering equipment including metering communications equipment.

Recently, United Energy are identifying a substantial increase of new unit developments where the metering enclosures are installed below ground level in car parks (in common property), surrounded by steel and concrete with no meter communication functionality available.



For new developments, please take into consideration the metering communication component during preliminary supply arrangement planning. There are many situations where there's no viable alternative option for the metering equipment to be installed, such as this shared driveway entrance in the developments common property.

The final dot point in Clause 8.12.2.1 (Location) in the 'Metering Communication Equipment' section from the Victorian Service & Installation Rules shall be applied.

8.12.2.1 Location

For remote read meters owned by the Distribution Businesses which are to be located within a basement a remote antenna (outside of the building) may be required for communication. During negotiation of supply the customer will need to consult with Distribution Businesses for the installation of conduit and antenna cabling.



There have been recent samples of the external antenna requirements and a substantial increase of unsuitable underground carpark "metering bunkers".

United Energy technicians have been investigating the rectification work required, with the only remedy available to enable the meters to communicate is the installation of external antennas, micro access points and tactical relays to resolve these communications issue that in many cases could have been avoided.

In addition, these sites often do not have site access (Locked Roller Security Doors etc.) and don't have 3G/4G mobile coverage and in some situations, can be 3 stories below ground. Meter enclosures shall be installed in a position where convenient and unhindered access is readily available for the Distributor to safely operate and work on the metering equipment at all times.

Further information regarding Clause 8.12.2.1 (Location) in the 'Metering Communication Equipment' section from the Victorian Service & Installation Rules can be provided from Alok Bhatt (United Energy AMI Meter Communications, Network Operations & Control) who can be contacted on phone (03) 8846 9414 or 0417 705 150 or preferably email alok.bhatt@ue.com.au.

