

Minutes

Meeting of the Economic Regulation Authority Consumer Consultative Committee

Meeting 1 / 2014

Date & Time: Wednesday, 5 March 2014, 1:00pm
Location: Ken Michael Room, 4th Floor, Albert Facey House
469-489 Wellington Street

Attendees:	Mr Lyndon Rowe	Chairman, ERA
	Mr Paul Kelly	Executive Director, Licensing Monitoring & Customer Protection (LMCP), ERA
	Ms Cathryn Greville	Assistant Director Customer Protection, LMCP, ERA
	Ms Sarah Lyons	Senior Project Officer, LMCP, ERA
	Ms Lisa Kazalac	Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA
	Mr Andrew Winter	Chamber of Minerals & Energy of WA
	Ms Mary White	Deputy WA Ombudsman
	Mr Chris Twomey	WACOSS (<i>proxy for Ms Irina Cattalini</i>)
	Ms Rebecca Douthwaite	Property Council of Australia (<i>proxy for Mr Lino Iacomella</i>)
Apologies:	Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS (<i>Mr Chris Twomey attended as proxy</i>)
	Mr Marcus Claridge	Director Energy Ombudsman (<i>Ms Mary White attended on behalf of the Energy Ombudsman and Ombudsman</i>)
	Mr Gary Newcombe	Consumer Protection, Department of Commerce
	Mr Paul Schollum	WA Local Government Association (WALGA)
	Mr Chris Wyhoon	WA Farmers Federation
	Mr Charles Brown	Financial Counsellor's Association
	Mr Leon Bradley	Pastoralists & Graziers Association (<i>proxy for Mr Tony Seabrook</i>)
Presenters:	Mr Tyson Self	Assistant Director Gas, Access, ERA
	Mr Richard Begley	Principal Regulatory Advisor, Access, ERA
	Ms Rebecca Douthwaite	Policy Advisor, Property Council of Australia
	Ms Elizabeth Walters	Assistant Director Electricity, Access, ERA
	Mr Paul Reid	Assistant Director Monitoring, LMCP, ERA

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Mr Rowe noted apologies as listed above. Mr Rowe welcomed members to the first meeting of 2014, in particular Ms Rebecca Douthwaite, proxy for Mr Lino Iacomella of the Property Council of Australia and Mr Chris Twomey, proxy for Ms Irina Cattalini of WACOSS.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING 4/2013 HELD ON 4 December 2013

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

3 STATUS REPORT

Mr Rowe spoke to the Status Report. Mr Rowe made note of the current Microeconomic Reform inquiry and stated it is the Authority's intention to release the Draft Report in late March/early April.

Mr Rowe also noted that there was an extension of time for interested parties to provide submissions on the Authority's determination of floor and ceiling costs for certain routes on the railway network managed and controlled by Brookfield Rail Pty Ltd.

Mr Rowe also noted that the Authority had provided the 2013 report on the Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM) to the Minister, and is planning to publish a public version of the report on its website in March 2014.

Mr Kelly spoke about current licensing and customer protection work, highlighting the requirement for water financial hardship policies to be in place by 18 May 2014. Mr Kelly also advised the committee that ECCC consultation on the ERA's Draft Decision closes today.

4 ERA PRESENTATION – Gas Access Arrangement – Mr Tyson Self, Assistant Director Gas, addressed members on the access regulation of gas transmission and distribution networks. This topic led into item 5, as the rate of return on capital constitutes part of the price arrangement. Mr Self stated that the ERA rarely receives consumer feedback on access arrangements, and encouraged consumer groups to provide feedback whenever they are able.

5 ERA Presentation – Consumer Implications of the Rate of Return on Capital – Mr Richard Begley, Principal Regulatory Advisor, spoke about the 2013 rate of return review and guidelines (under the National Gas Rules), including the National Gas Objective.

6 ERA PRESENTATION – Recent Reports:

Western Power Standards Review – Ms Elizabeth Walters, Assistant Director Electricity, discussed the 2012/13 Western Power Performance Report including service standard benchmarks in transmission, distribution and street lighting.

2013 Electricity & Gas Retail Performance Report Results – Mr Paul Reid, Assistant Director Monitoring, spoke about the performance of electricity and gas retailers including market developments and residential performance trends.

7 MEMBER PRESENTATION – Consequences of Poor Infrastructure Coordination and Delivery – Ms Rebecca Douthwaite, Policy Advisor, Property Council of Australia presented on the recent research into infrastructure in Western Australia and the effects of uncertainty and delay on the Western Australian property market and wider economy. Ms Douthwaite advised that her presentation shows the Property Council's initial findings and that a report will be released in June 2014. Ms Douthwaite referred to the Department of Planning's "Directions 31" Paper, noting that the Property Council strongly supports this paper.

8 ENERGY OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

The report was taken as read. Ms Mary White, Deputy WA Ombudsman highlighted key aspects of the report, and noted the introduction of the new water jurisdiction which will be monitored to identify trends.

9 MEMBERS' ISSUES & QUESTIONS

Andrew Winter of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA – raised CMEWA's recently released report on investment in resources sector infrastructure, and had a number of copies available for members.

10 NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO PRESENT AT NEXT MEETING

The presentations for the next meeting agenda include a member presentation by Mr Paul Schollum, Policy Manager Economics, WALGA on the economic issues affecting local government.

Ms Kazalac also offered CCI to present on the topic of 'Vision for Western Australia' at a future meeting.

The June meeting agenda will be finalised and circulated in advance of that meeting.

11 CHAIRMAN'S TAKE AWAY & AGREED MESSAGE FOR THE COMMUNIQUE

Mr Rowe thanked Ms Douthwaite for her member presentation, and commented on the links between the ERA presentations from different divisions of the ERA. Mr Rowe encouraged members to identify matters of interest either for a presentation or for questions on notice, and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 June 2014 (lunch from 12:30pm).

Meeting closed at 4:00 pm

