


Economic Regulation Authority

 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Minutes

Meeting of the Economic Regulation Authority Consumer Consultative Committee

Meeting 4 / 2015

Date & Time: Wednesday, 9 December 2015, 1:00pm

Location: Ken Michael Room, 4th Floor, Albert Facey House
469-489 Wellington Street

Attendees:

Dr Stephen King	Member, ERA (<i>ERACCC Chairman</i>)
Mr Paul Kelly	Executive Director, Licensing Monitoring & Customer Protection (LMCP), ERA
Ms Sarah Lyons	A/Assistant Director Customer Protection, ERA
Ms Megan Kenneally	A/Senior Project Officer, Licensing Monitoring & Customer Protection, ERA
Mr Matthew Sargeant	Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA
Mr Benjamin Hammer	Chamber of Minerals & Energy of WA
Mr Charles Brown	Financial Counsellor's Association of WA
Mr David Moore-Crouch	Property Council of Australia
Mr Chris Twomey	WACOSS
Mr Paul Schollum	WA Local Government Association (WALGA)
Ms Christine Coyne	Aboriginal Affairs Consultant, Christine Coyne & Associates
Mr Marcus Claridge	Energy and Water Ombudsman's Office

Apologies: Mr Tony York WA Farmers Federation

Absent: Mr Gary Newcombe Consumer Protection, Department of Commerce
Mr Leon Bradley Pastoralists & Graziers Association

Presenters: Mr Chris Twomey WACOSS
Ms Natalie Jackson Principal Analyst, ERA
Mr Jeremy Threlfall Assistant Director, Rail, ERA
Ms Leonie Browner Assistant Director, Inquiries, ERA

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Dr Stephen King chaired the meeting. Dr King noted the apologies as listed above and welcomed members to the fourth and final meeting of 2015.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING 3/2015 HELD ON 14 September 2015

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

3 STATUS REPORT

Dr King invited Mr Paul Kelly to speak to the LMCP sections of the Status Report. Mr Kelly highlighted the following:

- The Authority will use its powers under the *Water Services Act 2012* to send an inspector to inspect the assets of the Shire of Dumbleyung. This is the first time the Authority has used these powers.
- The discussion paper for the Authority's Water Licence Review is being finalised.
- The review of energy financial hardship policies and procedures has been completed.
- The Final Review Report on the 2015 review of the *Code of Conduct for Supply of Electricity to Small Use Customers* is due to be provided to the Economic Regulation Authority (**Authority**) in December.

Dr King spoke to the Status Report, highlighting the following:

- Draft decisions on the access arrangement revision proposals for the Goldfields Gas Pipeline and the Dampier to Bunbury Pipeline are due to be released by early 2016.
- The investigation into Vinalco Energy's pricing behaviour has been completed. This was the first investigation under the *Wholesale Electricity Market Rules*. The matter will now go to the Electricity Review Board.

4 MEMBER PRESENTATION – Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

Mr Chris Twomey, WACOSS, provided an overview of the performance of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals and the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**). Mr Twomey also discussed the relevance of the SDGs to Western Australia and the importance of developing Western Australian and Australian indicators for each of the SDGs.

5 ERA PRESENTATION – Review of the Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation (EGRC) Regulatory Scheme

Ms Natalie Jackson, Principal Analyst, Economics Division, ERA provided an overview of the Annual Review of the Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation (EGRC) Regulatory Scheme (**Scheme**). Ms Jackson provided an overview of the electricity market in Western Australia, the requirements under the Scheme and the requirements of the Authority's annual report into its review of the Scheme. A discussion paper on the Authority's 2015 Annual Report to the Minister for Energy on the effectiveness of the Scheme is currently out for consultation.

6 ERA PRESENTATION – Review of the Railways Access Code

Mr Jeremy Threlfall, Assistant Director Rail, Access Division, ERA provided an overview of the reasons for the review of the *Railways (Access) Code 2000*. Mr Threlfall provided an overview of the Competition Principles Agreement and the preconditions for prescriptive regulation. Mr Threlfall also provided background information on the history of the regulation of the railways in Western Australia. The report on the review is with the Treasurer and is likely to be published by the end of January 2016.

7 ERA PRESENTATION – Prisons Inquiry Final Report

Ms Leonie Browner, Assistant Director Inquiries from the ERA's Economics Division provided an overview of the Authority's recently completed inquiry into the Efficiency and Performance of Western Australian Prisons. Ms Browner gave an overview of the objectives of the inquiry and background information on the prisons in Western Australia. Ms Browner outlined the issues identified by the inquiry and the recommended actions to address these issues. The report detailing the findings of the inquiry was tabled in parliament in November 2015.

8 ENERGY OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

The report was taken as read. Mr Marcus Claridge, Director of Energy, Energy Ombudsman briefly highlighted that complaints are down across electricity, gas and water. This is consistent with other jurisdictions across the country.

9 NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO PRESENT AT MEETINGS IN 2016

Members were encouraged to consider potential member and guest presentations for 2016. Chris Twomey advised that a representative from WACOSS may be able to present on the Cost of Living Report at a 2016 meeting. Christine Coyne will also present at a meeting in 2016 on issues facing Aboriginal people.

10 MEMBER'S ISSUES & QUESTIONS (Questions on notice)

There were no issues raised or questions on notice.

11 PROPOSED DATES FOR 2016 ERACCC MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 14 March 2016 at 12:30pm. The dates for the remaining ERACCC meetings of 2016 are as follows:

Monday 13 June 2016

Monday 12 September 2016

December meeting TBA.

Action Item: The Secretariat will send calendar invites to ERACCC members for each of these meetings.

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

Dr King thanked Member presenter Mr Chris Twomey and ERA presenters Ms Natalie Jackson, Mr Jeremy Threlfall and Ms Leonie Browner for their presentations. Dr King also thanked members for their attendance and active participation.

Dr King reiterated the importance of the report on the Inquiry into Western Australia's Prisons and noted that any support that stakeholders can give to the report will lead to better outcomes for Western Australia.

Meeting closed at 4:15



DR STEPHEN KING
CHAIR, ERACCC