


Economic Regulation Authority

 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Minutes

Meeting of the Economic Regulation Authority Consumer Consultative Committee

Meeting 4 / 2016

Date & Time: Monday, 5 December 2016, 12:30pm

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

Attendees:	Ms Nicky Cusworth	Chair, ERA
	Mr Paul Kelly	Executive Director, Licensing Monitoring & Customer Protection, ERA
	Ms Caroline Coutts-Kleijer	A/Assistant Director Customer Protection, ERA
	Ms Sarah Lyons	Senior Project Officer, Customer Protection, ERA
	Ms Bev Jowle	Financial Counsellor's Association
	Mr Chris Twomey	WACOSS
	Mr Tony York	WA Farmers Federation
	Ms Dana Mason	WA Local Government Association (WALGA)
	Mr Charles Brown	Consumer Credit Legal Service (WA) Inc.
	Mr Marcus Claridge	Energy and Water Ombudsman's Office
Mr Luke Hoare	Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA	
Apologies:	Mr Gary McGill	Pastoralists & Graziers Association
	Mr Gary Newcombe	Consumer Protection, Department of Commerce
	Ms Christine Coyne	Aboriginal Affairs Consultant, Christine Coyne & Associates
	Mr David Moore-Crouch	Property Council of Australia Chamber of Minerals & Energy of WA

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Ms Nicky Cusworth chaired the meeting. Ms Cusworth noted the apologies as listed above and welcomed members to the fourth and final meeting of 2016.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING 3/2016 HELD ON 21 September 2016

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

3 ERACCC STATUS REPORT

Ms Cusworth summarised the ERACCC Status Report.

4 ERA PRESENTATION – Inquiry into the efficient costs and tariffs of the Water Corporation, Aqwest and Busselton Water

Ms Leonie Browner, Assistant Director, Inquiries, ERA, provided an overview of the upcoming review of water prices. The main objective of the inquiry is to establish efficient costs for each water corporation for each water service. This will be the fourth major water pricing inquiry conducted by the ERA.

5 ERA PRESENTATION – 2015 Review of the Synergy Regulatory Scheme

Ms Natalie Robins, Principal Analyst, Markets, ERA, provided a presentation on the review of the effectiveness of the regulatory scheme for Synergy. Ms Robins explained the recommendations made by the ERA, which will benefit consumers through increased competition.

6 ERACCC Review

Members discussed the proposed changes to ERACCC and were in favour of the following:

- Allowing members to have a greater role in determining the agenda.
- Calling for agenda items closer to the meeting, rather than at the meeting prior (as this is sometimes too early).
- Focusing the agenda on issues that have a direct impact on customers.
- Allowing for member only time at meetings.
- Shorter meetings.

7 GUEST PRESENTATION – Battery storage devices

Mr Aden Barker, Public Utilities Office, provided a presentation on battery storage technology. Mr Barker explained how batteries work, and discussed the findings of modelling for the estimated payback periods.

8 ERA UPDATE – Review of the Water Code: public submissions received

Caroline Coutts-Kleijer, A/Assistant Director, Customer Protection, ERA, gave an update on the ERA's review of the Water Code of Conduct. Ms Coutts-Kleijer advised that the ERA had received ten public submissions following the publication of the Consultation Paper.

9 ERACCC Seminar – Approval of topic

Members agreed that this item will be considered via email to allow the meeting to finish on time.

10 ENERGY OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

The report was taken as read. Mr Marcus Claridge, Director of Energy, Energy Ombudsman briefly noted some highlights of the report.

11 NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO PRESENT AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Members were encouraged to consider potential member and guest presentations for future meetings.

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

There were no issues raised by members or questions on notice.

Meeting closed at 3:35pm



MS NICKY CUSWORTH
CHAIR, ERACCC