

Minutes

Meeting of the Economic Regulation Authority Consumer Consultative Committee

Meeting 2 / 2017

Date & Time: Monday, 4 September 2017, 1:00pm

Location: Ken Michael and Stirling Rooms, 4th Floor, Albert Facey House
469 Wellington Street

Attendees:	Ms Nicky Cusworth	Chair, ERA
	Mr Paul Kelly	Executive Director, Regulation & Inquiries, ERA
	Ms Connie Wu	Senior Project Officer, ERA
	Mr Nathan Viles	Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA
	Ms Nicole Roocke	Chamber of Minerals & Energy of WA
	Mr Marcus Claridge	Energy and Water Ombudsman's Office
	Mr Bev Jowle	Financial Counsellors' Association
	Mr Doug Hall (proxy for Gary McGill)	Pastoralists & Graziers Association
	Mr Rachael Champtaloup	Property Council of Australia
	Mr Jack Thornton (proxy for Louise Giolitto)	WACOSS
	Ms Dana Mason	WA Local Government Association (WALGA)
	Ms Sinéad Mangan	Editor, ERA
Apologies:	Mr Tony York	WA Farmers Federation
	Ms Penny Lipscombe	Consumer Protection, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
	Ms Christine Coyne	Aboriginal Affairs Consultant, Christine Coyne & Associates
Presenters:	Ms Sara O'Connor	A/Executive Director, Energy Markets, ERA
	Ms Margaret Pyrchla	Western Power
	Mr Michael Crevola	Western Power
	Mr Matthew Bullock	Public Utilities Office
	Ms Sarah Woenne	Public Utilities Office

1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Ms Nicky Cusworth chaired the meeting. Ms Cusworth noted the apologies listed above and welcomed Mr Nathan Viles, Chamber of Commerce & Industry's newest representative on ERACCC. Ms Cusworth also noted that Ms Sinéad Mangan of the ERA would be attending this meeting as an observer.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – NOT REQUIRED

Ms Cusworth advised that there was no need to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of 12 June 2017, as that meeting was cancelled.

3 ERACCC STATUS REPORT

Ms Cusworth noted that Mr Ray Challen and Mr Greg Watkinson have both recently been appointed to the ERA Governing Body.

Following this, Ms Cusworth summarised the key points from the ERACCC Status Report and took questions from members on the content of the report.

4 ERA PRESENTATION – INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS – RESULTS OF ELECTRICITY MARKET REFORM

Ms Sara O'Connor, ERA, provided an overview of the institutional arrangements that have been implemented as a result of the Electricity Market Reform. These arrangements include transferring functions from the Independent Market Operator to the Australian Electricity Market Operator and the ERA, and establishing the independent Rule Change Panel. The role of the Panel is to assess Rule Change Proposals for the Wholesale Electricity Market Rules and the Gas Services Information Rules. Ms O'Connor also provided an outline of the new organisational structure for the Energy Markets Division of the ERA, and the Rule Change Panel.

5 GUEST PRESENTATION – WESTERN POWER – CUSTOMER INSIGHTS & ENGAGEMENT

Mr Michael Crevola and Ms Margaret Pырchla, Western Power, provided a presentation on customer engagement activities undertaken to gain insights in customers' concerns and willingness to pay for safe and reliable network service. The presenters also provided a summary of discussion points from various forums. Western Power will take account of the stakeholder input received during these forums when preparing its Access Arrangement Proposal for the ERA.

6 PRIVATE MEMBER DISCUSSION (including afternoon tea)

Members were given 10 minutes private discussion time, with members of the ERA leaving the room.

7 QUESTION TIME

Members did not raise any questions. As foreshadowed in the previous meeting of 13 March 2017, members considered that private member discussion time was not necessary, and therefore agreed that it would be discontinued in future meetings.

8 GUEST PRESENTATION – Solar Power Purchase Agreements

Ms Sarah Woenne and Mr Matthew Bullock, Public Utilities Office (PUO), presented on the topic of licensing exemptions for Solar Power Purchase Agreements administered by the PUO.¹ The presenters explained that businesses seeking to enter into purchase agreements with customers must apply for an 'individual exemption' from the PUO, and must meet the exemption order

¹ A Solar PPA is a financial arrangement in which a supplier owns, operates and maintains a solar power system on the customer's property, and the customer agrees to purchase electricity on specific terms for a contract period.

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conditions set by the PUO and provide reporting data to the PUO. Currently, there are 14 exempt providers in WA. The PUO will review the exemption order in late 2019 or early 2020.

9 ENERGY OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

The report was taken as read. Members asked various questions on the report content, and Mr Marcus Claridge, Director Energy and Water Ombudsman, provided responses to those questions.

10 CHAIR'S CLOSING COMMENTS

Ms Cusworth thanked members for their attendance and active participation.

Meeting closed at 3:30pm.



MS NICOLA CUSWORTH
CHAIR, ERACCC

