



Electricity Code Consultative Committee and Gas Marketing Code Consultative Committee Terms of Reference

1. Preamble

The Electricity Code Consultative Committee (**ECCC**) is established by the Economic Regulation Authority (**Authority**) under section 81 of the *Electricity Industry Act 2004* (**EI Act**).

The Gas Marketing Code Consultative Committee (**GMCCC**) is established by the Authority under section 11ZPO of the *Energy Coordination Act 1994* (**EC Act**).

2. Purpose of the Committees

The ECCC and GMCCC are established for the purpose of:

- a. advising the Authority on matters relating to the *Code of Conduct for the Supply of Electricity to Small Use Customers* (**Electricity Code**) and *Gas Marketing Code of Conduct* (**Gas Marketing Code**) respectively;
- b. undertaking reviews of the Electricity Code and Gas Marketing Code at least once every two years; and
- c. advising the Authority on any proposed amendment to, or replacement of, the Electricity Code or Gas Marketing Code.

3. Appointment of Members

Membership of the ECCC shall comprise:

- a. a Chairperson from the Authority with no voting right;
- b. four members* from consumer representative organisations (with one of these from a regional, rural or remote area if possible);
- c. four members* from industry or industry representative organisations;
- d. two members from government agencies;
- e. an executive officer from the Authority with no voting right.

The Authority may discharge, alter or reconstitute the ECCC at its discretion as provided for under section 81(2)(b) of the EC Act.

Membership of the GMCCC shall comprise:

- a. a Chairperson from the Authority with no voting right;
- b. three members* from consumer representative organisations;
- c. three members* from industry or industry representative organisations;
- d. two members from government agencies; and
- e. an Executive Officer from the Authority with no voting right.

The Authority may discharge, alter or reconstitute the GMCCC at its discretion as provided for under section 11ZPO(2)(b) of the EC Act.

* The Authority shall appoint these members following a public call for expressions of interest.

All voting rights shall be equal.

Membership terms are two years or, in the case of an appointment to fill a casual vacancy, until the expiry of the retiring member's term.

4. Payments to Members

The Authority may pay a non-government consumer organisation representative a remuneration, allowance or reimbursement, the rate of which will be determined by the Minister for Public Sector Management.

5. Support from the Authority

The Authority shall provide reasonable support services necessary for the ECCC and GMCCC to carry out their functions.

6. Committee Governance

The ECCC and GMCCC may adopt procedures, consistent with the requirements of the EI Act and the EC Act respectively, for carrying out reviews of the Electricity Code and Gas Marketing Code respectively, and for the provision of advice to the Authority.

The Authority may impose conditions regarding members' use of information it releases to members.

Members shall take all reasonable measures to protect from unauthorised use or disclosure information provided to them by the Authority and indicated by the Authority to be "confidential". This confidentiality clause shall survive the expiration or termination of members' appointments.

Members who believe that any of their external activities would conflict with their position on the ECCC or GMCCC must declare their interest to the Chairperson as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the potential conflict, and in any event within 14 days of becoming aware.

Members shall notify the Chairperson of any change in their circumstances that limits their ability to satisfy these duties.

7. Meeting Procedures

The Chairperson shall endeavour to achieve consensus of the members present at a meeting.

If consensus is not possible, decisions shall be by a majority vote of 50% of members plus one.

Members not present may vote out of session subject to the discretion of the Chairperson.

Members unable to attend may send a proxy subject to the discretion and prior approval of the Chairperson.

Decisions may be made by email communication at the discretion of the Chairperson.

8. Consultation

The ECCC and GMCCC shall give any interested person an opportunity to offer comment relevant to a review of the Electricity Code or Gas Marketing Code respectively, or to any proposed amendment or replacement of the Electricity Code or Gas Marketing Code respectively.

The ECCC and GMCCC shall take into account any comments they receive.

9. Code Consistency

The ECCC and GMCCC shall:

- a. endeavour to promote consistency across the Electricity Code and Gas Marketing Code in Western Australia;
- b. keep informed of the trends in code development in the energy sector in other States and promote code consistency at a national level where appropriate;
- c. promote code consistency according to principles of best practice in consumer protection.