





26 June 2018

ERA Consumer Consultative Committee communique

MEETING OF 21 JUNE 2018

The Economic Regulation Authority's Consumer Consultative Committee (ERACCC) provides a forum for the ERA to discuss issues affecting Western Australian consumers.

ERACCC members represent the interests of a wide range of consumers.

The ERACCC held its second meeting of the year on 21 June 2018. The following presentations were made to members:

Horizon Power – Microgrids and the changing energy market in Western Australia

Mark Paterson, General Manager Consumer Energy at Horizon Power, provided ERACCC members with a presentation on the changing nature of the electricity industry due to the rapid development and adoption of solar and battery technologies.

Mr Paterson discussed how Horizon Power is currently trialling different billing structures to give customers more predictable energy bills, as well as a number of standalone power projects the company is currently working on in regional areas.

• Energy Markets – Overview of the energy markets division

Rajat Sarawat, ERA, outlined the upcoming work stream for the Energy Markets division. The Energy Markets division oversees the Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM) in Western Australia that includes energy, capacity and support service (ancillary service) markets. It investigates breaches of the WEM Rules and provides the Minister for Energy with annual reports on the effectiveness of the WEM.

• Business Licensing Inquiry – update

Jenness Gardner and Analena Gilhome, ERA, provided ERACCC members with an update on the progress of the inquiry into business and operational licensing in Western Australia.

The inquiry team has concluded its first round of consultation, and has found that, in general there is a lack of consistent monitoring of regulation in Western Australia, and government agencies struggle to make changes.

ERACCC members discussed how the inquiry fits into the Government's broader public sector reform process.

• AA4 – Update on Western Power's fourth access arrangement and the ERA's draft decision

Elizabeth Walters, ERA, updated ERACCC members on the progress of Western Power's fourth access arrangement, which sets out the terms and conditions for those who want to use the network to transport electricity.

Consultation on the draft decision closed in mid-June, and submissions are available to read on the <u>ERA website</u>.

More information about the ERACCC is available on the <u>ERA website</u>. The ERACCC will next meet in September 2018.

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