

## Minutes

### Meeting of the Economic Regulation Authority Consumer Consultative Committee

#### Meeting 1/2012

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, 7 March 2012, 12:30pm

**Location:** Boardroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Albert Facey House, 469-489 Wellington Street

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<b>Attendees:</b>	Mr Lyndon Rowe	Chairman, ERA
	Mr Paul Kelly	Executive Director LMCP, ERA
	Ms Cathryn Greville	Assistant Director Customer Protection, ERA
	Mr Chris Field	Energy Ombudsman
	Mr Wayne Mann	Deputy Energy Ombudsman
	Mr Charles Brown	Financial Counsellors' Association of WA
	Mr Mike Norton	WA Farmers Federation
	Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
	Mr Gary Newcombe	Department of Commerce
	Mr Tony Seabrook	Pastoralists & Graziers Association
	Mr Andrew Canion	Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA (Small Enterprise Network)
	Mr David Kernohan	Consumer Credit Legal Service
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mr Chris Alexander	Chamber of Minerals & Energy
	Mr Ian Duncan	WA Local Government Association
	Mr William de Haer	Property Council WA
<b>Presenters:</b>	Mr Greg Watkinson	Chief Executive Officer, ERA
	Mr Gary Newcombe	Department of Commerce
	Mr Greg Will	Horizon Power
	Mr Rajat Sarawat	Executive Director Economics, ERA
	Ms Wana Yang	Assistant Director Markets, ERA
	Mr Richard Begley	Principal Regulatory Advisor, ERA

#### 1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Mr Lyndon Rowe welcomed members and noted apologies as listed above.

#### 2 MINUTES OF MEETING 4/2011 HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2011

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record of the last meeting. Mr Rowe clarified that the questions posed in item 9 of the minutes from Meeting 4/2011 were ongoing questions on which the ERA always welcomes feedback.

#### 3 UPDATE ON ACTION ITEM REGISTER & STATUS REPORT

The status report was taken as read and no issues were raised. There were no action items on the register from the last meeting.

**4 ERA PRESENTATION – ERA Work program 2012/13 – Mr Greg Watkinson, CEO, ERA**

Mr Greg Watkinson provided a presentation on the ERA's Work Program for 2012/13. A copy of the PPT will be circulated with these minutes.

**5 ERA PRESENTATION – Introduction to the Economics Division – Mr Rajat Sarawat, Executive Director Economics, ERA**

Mr Rajat Sarawat provided a presentation on the background of the ERA's Economics Division, which was formed by the recent merger of the Markets and References & Research teams. A copy of the PPT will be circulated with these minutes.

**6 ERA PRESENTATION – Introduction to the Markets Team – Ms Wana Yang, Assistant Director Markets, ERA**

Ms Wana Yang provided a presentation on the work performed by the ERA's Markets Team. A copy of the PPT will be circulated with these minutes.

**7 ERA PRESENTATION – Mid-West Energy Project Final Decision – Mr Richard Begley, Principal Regulatory Advisor, ERA**

Mr Richard Begley provided a presentation on the Final Determination for the Mid West Energy Project. A copy of the PPT will be circulated with these minutes.

**8 GUEST PRESENTATION – Australian Consumer Law Update – Mr Gary Newcombe, Department of Commerce**

Mr Gary Newcombe provided a presentation on the implementation of the Australian Consumer Law. A copy of the PPT will be circulated with these minutes.

**9 MEMBERS PRESENTATION – Operations Division – Mr Greg Will, Horizon Power**

Mr Greg Will provided a presentation on the work of the Operations Division at Horizon Power. A copy of the PPT will be circulated with these minutes.

**10 ENERGY OMBUDSMAN REPORT**

The report was taken as read.

**11 MEMBERS' ISSUES**

- Ms Cattalini from WACOSS wants access to information on issues affecting customers, stating that greater transparency and clarity is needed because this area is of key importance. Ms Cattalini thanked the ERA for the work they are doing in that respect.
- Mr Seabrook noted that there is no representative from the manufacturing sector on the ERACCC. Mr Seabrook stated that rural WA was suffering due to the difficulty of retaining young people, the mining boom and the high cost of education.

**12 NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO PRESENT AT NEXT MEETING**

No nominations were received. The ERA's Secretariat will arrange for a member to present at the next meeting.

**13 CHAIRMAN'S TAKE AWAY & AGREED MESSAGE FOR THE COMMUNIQUE**

Mr Rowe noted that the content of the presentations by ERA staff need to be in plainer language for the ERACCC to understand.

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 June 2012 (lunch from 12:30pm).

**Meeting closed at 5:00pm**