

Minutes

Meeting of the Economic Regulation Authority Consumer Consultative Committee

Meeting 4 / 2013

Date & Time: Wednesday, 4 December 2013, 1:00pm

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

Attendees:	Mr Lyndon Rowe	Chairman, ERA
	Mr Charles Brown	Financial Counsellors' Association of WA
	Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
	Mr Marcus Claridge	Director Energy Ombudsman
	Ms Rebecca Douthwaite	Property Council of Australia (<i>proxy for Mr Lino Iacomella</i>)
	Mr Ian Randles	Pastoralists & Graziers Association (<i>proxy for Mr Tony Seabrook</i>)
	Ms Mary White	Energy Ombudsman (<i>proxy for Mr Chris Field</i>)
	Mr Andrew Winter	Chamber of Minerals & Energy of WA
	Mr Paul Kelly	Executive Director LMCP, ERA
	Dr David Leith	A/Assistant Director Customer Protection, ERA
	Ms Sarah Lyons	Senior Project Officer, Customer Protection, ERA
Apologies:	Mr Chris Field	Energy Ombudsman
	Ms Lisa Kazalac	Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA
	Mr Gary Newcombe	Department of Commerce
	Mr Paul Schollum	WA Local Government Association (WALGA)
	Mr Chris Wyhoon	WA Farmers Federation
Presenters:	Ms Mary White	Principal Assistant Ombudsman
	Mr Chris Twomey	Director, Social Policy, WACOSS
	Ms Shannon Burdeu	Manager for Economics and Tax, Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Mr Rowe noted apologies as listed above. Mr Rowe welcomed members to the final meeting of 2013, in particular Ms Mary White, proxy for the Energy Ombudsman Mr Chris Field, Ms Rebecca Douthwaite, proxy for Mr Lino Iacomella of the Property Council of Australia and Mr Ian Randles, proxy for Mr Tony Seabrook of the Pastoralists & Graziers Association.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING 3/2013 HELD ON 4 September 2013

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

3 STATUS REPORT

Mr Rowe spoke to the Status Report, noting the current inquiry into microeconomic reform, the rate of return guidelines for regulated gas pipelines due for release during the month and the report to the Minister for Energy on the wholesale electricity market. Mr Kelly highlighted current customer protection and licensing work by the ERA.

4 GUEST PRESENTATION – The New Water Ombudsman Scheme – Ms Mary White, Principal Assistant Ombudsman. Ms White spoke about the new water industry ombudsman scheme which will come into effect on 1 January 2014. On that date, the existing Energy Ombudsman will be known as the Energy and Water Ombudsman.

5 2014/15 AGENDAS AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The meeting considered the document Draft ERACCC Forward Agendas 2014-15 circulated by email before the meeting. Mr Rowe called for suggestions for topics for presentations to fill the remaining agenda places. The following topics were proposed:

- Implications of the merger of Synergy and Verve
- Cost drivers investigation by the PUO and opportunities resulting
- Economic consequences of poor infrastructure coordination and delivery (Property Council presentation)
- Funding and contracting under the new Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy (WACOSS presentation)

Dr Leith encouraged members to contact him with any further suggestions. On the subject of ERACCC memberships, Mr Rowe advised the terms of appointment will expire in March 2014. The Secretariat will be writing to member organisations in December inviting them to re-nominate for another term.

6 MEMBER PRESENTATION – Pre-Budget Submission for 2014-15 *What Really Counts: Investing for all Western Australians* – Mr Chris Twomey, Director of Social Policy, WACOSS. Mr Twomey presented the details of the investment WACOSS has requested that government make in the top five priorities of the community services sector, starting in the next financial year.

7 GUEST PRESENTATION – Economic Reach of the WA Resources Sector – Ms Shannon Burdeu, Manager for Economics and Tax, Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA. Ms Burdeu gave a presentation on the Chamber of Minerals and Energy's newly released report on the influence of the resources sector on both the WA and national economies.

8 ENERGY OMBUDSMAN REPORT

The report was taken as read.

9 MEMBERS' ISSUES & QUESTIONS

There were no Members' Issues or Questions

10 NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO PRESENT AT NEXT MEETING

Next meeting's presentations are contained in the Forward Agenda document discussed at item 5.

11 CHAIRMAN'S TAKE AWAY & AGREED MESSAGE FOR THE COMMUNIQUE

Mr Rowe thanked members for their contribution to ERACCC in 2013, and wished everyone a happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 March 2014 (lunch from 12:30pm).

Meeting closed at 3:45pm