



Minutes

Meeting Title: Economic Regulation Authority Consumer Consultative Committee

Meeting Number: 03/2024

Date & Time: Tuesday, 15 October 2024 10:00am (AWST)

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: **Members**

Tay Alers	CCI WA	
Aaron Walker	Chamber of Minerals and Energy	
Rowan Kelly	Consumer Credit Legal Service	
Suresh Rajan	Independent advocate	
Dr Divya Sharma	Ethnic Communities Council	Apology
Leanne Berard	Financial Counsellors' Association	
Sheldon Mumby	Pastoralists & Graziers Association	
Nick Warland	Property Council of Australia (WA)	
Kitty Prodonovich	RCCI WA	
Graham Hansen	UnionsWA	
Sophie Hantz	WA Council of Social Service	
John Hassell	WA Farmers Federation	Apology
Daniel Thomson	WA Local Government Association	

ERA

Steve Edwell (Chair), Jenness Gardner (CEO), Emily Robinson (A/Manager Strategy and Stakeholders), Clare Darragh (Communications Officer).

Observers

Penny Lipscombe	Consumer Protection (DEMIRS)	Apology
Marcus Claridge	Energy and Water Ombudsman	
Brent Savage	Energy Policy WA (DEMIRS)	

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting opened at 10:00am.

Jenness Gardner gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Welcome

Steve Edwell, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Steve spoke about 2024 being a year of high activity and 2025 expects to be busy with both state and federal elections.

Welcomed Dr Divya Sharma from the Ethnic Communities Council to ERACCC.

Penny Lipscombe, Consumer Protection (DEMIRS), is retiring. Steve thanked Penny for all her work supporting ERACCC.

3. Apologies

Steve noted the apologies.

4. Minutes of meeting 2/2024 held on Tuesday, 11 June 2024

Members approved the amended minutes of Meeting 2/2024 as a formal record of those events.

5. Update from ERACCC Chair

Steve presented his perspectives on the energy transition locally and globally.

Part of the ERA's role is to consider the long-term interests of consumers. Balancing price and reliability for gas and electricity consumers with environmental objectives such as emissions reductions.

It is important going forward for energy consumer organisations to have a holistic view of the energy transition. ERA consultation in terms of access arrangements traditionally has been focused on price. Steve wants broader consultation in the future. There is a need to provide constituents with big picture issues.

- What do your stakeholders think about price emissions trade off?
- How do we accommodate disadvantaged users without compromising the transition?
- Consider intergenerational impacts through to 2050. We need to think about the current and future generation of users.

Steve considers climate change to be a major challenge and should be the top priority in the transformation process.

6. CME Update

Aaron Walker from The Chamber of Minerals and Energy presented work it has recently undertaken on the energy transition. [Energy costs in transition: Decarbonising Western Australia's South West Interconnected System \(SWIS\)](#)

The CME recommends the WA Government act with urgency to deliver a new energy system by:

- Releasing a draft master transmission plan for the SWIS.

- Consulting with industry, market participants and potential investors on user-pays transmission funding models.
- Review the market structure.
- Deliver an efficient approvals process for energy infrastructure projects.
- Establishing an Energy Transition Working Group.

7. CCI WA Update

Tay Alers from The Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA presented on work it has underway about Western Australia's energy transition.

- CCI WA released the paper [Capturing Our Future - Why Carbon Capture is critical to Australia's Energy Transition](#)
- Working with Deloitte Paris on an upcoming paper regarding modelling on energy grid. Plan to release the paper post the WA state election. CCI WA are in the early stages of consultation focusing on issues of price, reliability and carbon emissions.

8. Member updates

Kitty Prodonovich, RCCI WA. They are working with members in regional WA on the issue of reliable access to power. RCCI are working on talking to as many stakeholders as possible. Work to focus on the forward planning of networks.

Leanne Berard, Financial Counsellors' Association. They are supporting DEMIRS in the \$700 energy credit. Encouraging Financial Counsellors to be aware of the credit so they can advise eligible consumers.

Daniel Thomson, WALGA. They are working to see how consultations can be improved in Wheatbelt and Mid-West communities regarding renewables. Working with the government and local councils.

Suresh Rajan, Independent advocate. Conversations with stakeholders indicate they don't realise the importance of climate change in their daily lives. Issue not being brought to their level. There is a need to improve engagement.

Sophie Hantz, WA Council of Social Services. They are seeing an increase in people seeking financial support for the first time. Energy hardship applications increasing. Seeing vulnerable people more effected by climate change, people sleeping rough or not turning on heating or cooling systems to save money. Interested in equitable policy to be included in the energy transition.

9. ERA update

Emily Robinson provided an update on recent ERA activities, upcoming work program and open consultations.

10. Meeting closed at 11:35am

The next meeting is expected to be held in early 2025.