



Minutes

Meeting Title: ERACCC Minutes – Meeting 1 of 2026 – 20 January 2026

Meeting Number: 01/2026

Date & Time: Tuesday, 20 January 2026 10:00am (AWST)

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: **Members**

Tay Alers	CCI WA
Jasmine Kaur	Chamber of Minerals and Energy
Rowan Kelly	Consumer Credit Legal Service
Suresh Rajan	Independent advocate
Sarah Holman	Financial Counsellors' Association of Western Australia (FCAWA)
Graham Hansen	UnionsWA
Sophie Hantz	WA Council of Social Service (WACOSS)
Max Bushell	WA Local Government Association
Tim Cahill	Electrify Everything WA
Steve McGuire	WAFarmers

ERA

Steve Edwell (Chair), Jenness Gardner (CEO), Sara O'Connor (Executive Director, Regulation), Elizabeth Walters (Assistant Director, Electricity), Emily Robinson (Senior Advisor, Strategy and Stakeholders), Clare Darragh (Minutes)

Observers

Marcus Claridge	Energy and Water Ombudsman
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Apologies

	Ethnic Communities Council	Apology
Daavid Anderson	Property Council of Australia (WA)	Apology
Kitty Prodonovich	RCCI WA	Apology
Brent Savage	Energy Policy WA (DEED)	Apology

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 first meeting of ERACCC for 2026.

Steve welcomed Tim Cahill from new ERACCC member organisation, Electrify Everything WA, to the meeting.

Tim Cahill provided a brief overview of Electrify Everything WA.

3. Apologies

Steve noted the apologies.

4. Minutes of meeting 1/2025 held on Tuesday, 22 July 2025

Members approved the minutes of Meeting 1/2025 as a formal record of those events.

5. Update from ERACCC Chair – ERA: The year ahead

Steve noted that 2025 was the busiest year at the ERA during Steve's time as Chair. Steve provided a summary of key activities for 2025. The ERA expects 2026 will again be busy with projects including:

- The operation of large-scale batteries in the wholesale market.
- Reviewing AEMO's Allowable Revenue and Forecast Capital Expenditure
- 2026 Review of Gas rate of return
- Determination of the initial regulated asset base for the rail networks owner by ARC and PTA.
- Preparing to take on the new function of administering and enforcing the framework for Alternative Electricity Services (AES) in Western Australia.
- Energy market investigations are continuing and ongoing.

6. Western Power AA6: Framework and approach issues paper – Elizabeth Walters

Elizabeth provided attendees with an overview of the access arrangement process and issues identified as relevant to Western Power Access Arrangement 6, including providing a high-level access arrangement timeline and the key challenges for Western Power over the upcoming access arrangement period (2027 to 2032).

Jenness told attendees that the ERA is seeking to identify how the ERA can prioritise key issues that are of priority to the community. For example, remote and rural reliability and streetlights.

7. Discussion – Western Power Access Arrangement 6: Framework and approach – Elizabeth Walters and Jenness Gardner

Elizabeth and Jenness facilitated a discussion with attendees on a range of issues, a summary of these discussions is provided below.

Expectations of Western Power’s AA6 proposal

The ERA discussed the ongoing suitability of the regulatory framework and any changes needed. The ERA also discussed the ERA’s expectations of Western Power’s AA6 proposal.

Attendee comments:

- Inverter sizing applications
 - Not enough transparency from Western Power when approving or not approving inverter sizing applications.
 - Applications going into Western Power as per what is allowed however they are being rejected with no guidance as to why.
 - Some people have now raised this issue with their local MP.
- Affordability
 - Cost pressures and tariff complexity continue to affect low-income and vulnerable households.
 - Affordability risks were not sufficiently mitigated through service or pricing design. Understanding of bills can be challenging for some consumers.
 - Fixed charges effect low-income households. People try to lower electricity consumption however fixed charges don’t change.
 - Energy stress will increase now energy credits have stopped.
- Local Government
 - WALGA are currently undertaking consultation with its members to inform submission to the ERA.
 - Issues expected to come up in consultation include timeframes around moving or removing electricity equipment, reliability regarding regional outages, local government managed electric vehicle charging, connection timeframes and the need for a more dispersed network so other areas can provide support during outages.
- Other
 - Clean Energy Link North project.
 - Transparency from Western Power around cost blowouts.
 - Behind the meter options to help with affordability.

Steve discussed the shift from steady growth in the network and technology to more uncertainty including the impacts of global supply issues and climate change. The challenge for Western Power is to plan the future network and provide customers a clear path as to what the costs will be. The ERA wants Western Power to provide us with its vision for the network by 2032.

Standard services and payments

The ERA discussed services offered, payments for services and link to retail tariffs.

Attendee comments:

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- Upgrades of single phase to three phase power. This cost is highly variable. Confirmation and clarity on costs of this upgrade would be helpful.
- Local governments raised issues including LED streetlight replacement and moving equipment.

Steve discussed that the ERA is interested in Western Power providing an investment and operation plan so consumers can easily understand development in their region and area. The ERA would welcome feedback from WALGA and other ERACCC members regarding what level of detail would be useful to organisations and their stakeholders.

8. Service standards and customer connections

The ERA discussed service standards benchmarks, granularity of reporting and challenges around customer connections.

Jenness advised attendees that the ERA welcomes further discussions with ERACCC members on submission topics and Elizabeth thanked attendees for their time and helpful feedback.

9. Members updates

Tim Cahill, Electrify Everything WA, advised that their members have raised complaints with the Energy and Water Ombudsman about Synergy regarding VPP transparency and surviving clauses. The contracts are complicated. The Ombudsman is unable to adjudicate because the selling of energy from customers to Synergy is not covered in the current framework.

Max Bushell, WALGA, advised they are currently looking at issues around EV charging infrastructure, public lighting strategy, LED streetlight program. Noted the option now available to LGAs for streetlight replacement using approved Western Power contractors.

Jasime Kaur, CME, advised they are currently working on ERA submission for AA6 and a submission to EPWA's fixed capital charge consultation. Have also released state pre-budget submission.

10. Meeting closed at 11:15am

The ERA will be in contact with information on the next meeting.