

Community Forum Guest Speaker Series



Session #3: National energy transition and the ACT – Wednesday 24 July 2024

Communication Link

42 people attended

27 members attended

15 project team members and observers

11 questions on: electric batteries, energy policy, role of Government in the transition, communicating the energy transition, ACT household rebates, managing fear of transition

The third and final of our speaker series explored the the national energy transition and where the ACT fits into the equation.

Guest speaker Rosemary Sinclair, Chair of the Evoenergy Energy Consumer Reference Council, presented and explored the complexities of the national energy transition, including the ACT's unique role at the forefront of the transition. Rosemary also explored the evolving role of consumers and the need for a flexible regulatory framework.

Key topics

- **Technology:** The energy transition involves a rapid evolution of technologies, particularly the rise of consumer owned resources like rooftop solar, batteries, and electric vehicles. These changes are reshaping the energy landscape and how energy is generated, distributed, and consumed
- **Consumers:** There will be a shift from consumers as passive recipients to active participants in the energy market. It will be increasingly important to engage with consumers to help them understand the transition, address their concerns, and build trust in the energy sector
- **Regulatory Framework:** A key discussion centered on the need for a flexible and adaptable regulatory framework. The current framework, designed for a more traditional, centralised energy model, may need significant adjustments to accommodate the changing landscape
- **ACT at the forefront:** The ACT is positioned as a leader in the energy transition, with a clear government policy framework and strong consumer support. The ACT is seen as a model for broader, nationwide discussions on the transition

Key issues and challenges

Costs of transition

- High upfront costs associated with electrifying homes
- Impacts on low income households
- Costs as a significant barrier to participation in the transition
- Potential price discrepancies between ACT and NSW, likely influenced by government incentives

Consumer confidence and trust

- Declining confidence and trust in the energy sector especially for those under financial pressure, fueled by price hikes and uncertainty about the transition
- Consumers are less likely to participate in the transition if they are not confident in the process

Adapting regulatory frameworks

- The need for a flexible and adaptable regulatory framework that encourages innovation, supports consumers, and ensures equity
- The current framework, designed for a more traditional, centralised energy model, may not be suitable

Communication and education

- Clear communication and education around the transition are essential to build understanding, address concerns, and build trust with consumers
- Lack of clear and consistent information from installers can further erode trust in the process

Stranded assets

- The need for regulatory changes to address the potential for stranded gas assets and the resulting cost burden on remaining users
- Ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of costs and benefits during the transition

Action items

- **Evoenergy:** Continue engaging with consumers to understand their concerns and priorities
- **ACT Government:** Lead the way in developing regulatory frameworks that support innovation and a just and equitable transition, considering consumer needs and affordability
- **Energy Sector:** Prioritise building trust with consumers through clear communication and transparency, especially regarding costs and benefits

The meeting emphasised the importance of ongoing dialogue and collaboration among consumers, the energy sector, and governments to ensure a successful and equitable energy transition.

Marianus link

NCE Roadmap

"Yes, Rosemary is brilliant."

"Awesome answer."

"Very well put."

"Very informative. Thank you, Rosemary."