

## Session 9, 27 March 2025

- Feedback on draft plan
- Revisit revenue recovery options, network cost recovery options and permanent disconnections

### Attendees

- 24 forum members
- 3 observers: Australian Energy Regulator, Consumer Challenge Panel
- 8 Evoenergy staff

### Presenters

- Ashlyn Napier, Principal Regulatory Economist
- Gillian Symmans, Group Manager Regulatory Reviews & Policy

### Facilitator

Helen Leayr,  
Communication Link

### Activity 1: Comments and feedback on the draft plan

**Do you have any further feedback on the draft plan? How well do you think Evoenergy responded to feedback from the community forum? Are there any areas of the draft plan you would like to discuss further?**

Forum members would like to further explore the approach to disconnections and the possibility of cost sharing across electricity and gas users. Some members would like to see more open communication and engagement with stakeholders about an individual's role in the electrification of the ACT.

Majority of members felt that the feedback has been taken on board well within current Government policy and regulatory confines.

Some raised whether a change in Government policy will have an impact down the track on the draft plan while others expressed interest in seeing the data behind disconnection numbers to better understand whether Evoenergy is on track.

### Activity 2: Proposed revenue cap

**What are your views on the revenue cap / concerns you about the use of a revenue cap? Do you have any ideas / considerations for how these concerns could be addressed by Evoenergy?**

Members are generally supportive and prefer the revenue cap. Some concerns were raised about the revenue cap potentially causing a significant increase in price with a mass reduction exiting the network. There was support for clearly communicating the revenue cap to customers, with some calling for Governments to consider reducing costs further for low-income earners. Others felt cost recovery was a good focus rather than potential profits and highlighted the importance of regularly reviewing the plan to reflect current Government policies and situational prices.

### Activity 3: Approaches to depreciation

**Are the annual bill increases proposed in our draft plan to recover asset costs reasonable, compared to bill increases under a straight-line approach? Why / why not?**

There is general support for the annual bill increases chosen by Evoenergy with the information currently available. Concerns were raised about the practicality of the discussion with so many unknowns, assumptions and any future policy changes. Some queried whether the electrical network has the capacity to receive all the new customers coming on board and how much the costs will go up. Noting high electricity costs may disincentivise people to move off the gas network.

Questions were also raised about apartments and renters and possible other policies to support. Some feel that the ACT Government should play a role in cost recovery impacts as the drivers of the policies. Some suggested that it would be helpful to see analysis of periods beyond 10 years. There were shared concerns around the impact on families and the current cost of living.

### Activity 4: Approach to permanent disconnections.

**Given our intention to seek a targeted approach to permanent disconnections, do you think it is fair and equitable for the disconnecting property owners to pay for a permanent disconnection? Why / why not?**

Some members believe it is fair and equitable for the disconnecting property owners to pay. There was also a suggestion that when selling a property who pays the disconnection costs could become part of sale negotiations.

### Next steps

- Update session 9 dashboard summary based on today's feedback
- Keep in touch via Slack