

ActewAGL Distribution Energy Consumer Reference Council**Meeting 11** Minutes 13 April 2016 9:30-12:30ActewAGL House, Canberra City

Attendees

Allan Williams (Chairman)

Glenys Patulny

Kristine Riethmiller

Jodie Pipkorn

Rick Lord

Nick Clarke

John Sullivan

Tuggeranong Community Council

Canberra Business Chamber

SEE-Change

Council on the Aging

Engineers Australia, Canberra Division

Australian National University

ActewAGL Distribution

Ed Gaykema

Peter Cunningham

Paul Walshe

Emily Brown

Mike Schulzer

Brent Lamont

Helen Leayr

Kerri Hannaford

Manager, Gas Networks

Regulatory Manager, Asset Management

Director, Marketing and Corporate Affairs, ActewAGL

Regulatory Pricing Manager

Principal Engineer, Asset Management Strategy

Project Manager, EV Charging Network Pilot Program

Consumer Engagement

Consumer Engagement

Apologies

Susan Helyar

Ewan Brown

Kirk Coningham

Michael Hopkins

Stephen Devlin

Dennis Stanley

Philip Deamer

ACT Council of Social Services

Gungahlin Community Council

Master Builders Association

Master Builders Association

General Manager, Asset Management, ActewAGL

Branch Manager, Asset Strategy

Manager, Gas Access Regulation

Papers distributed prior to the meeting

- Agenda meeting #11.
- Draft Minutes of meeting #10.
- Presentations:
 - ActewAGL Distribution Asset Management System
 - Project Murrumbidgee – Electric Vehicles

1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair, Allan Williams, welcomed the Council members and apologies were noted.

Guest speakers from ActewAGL were welcomed to the meeting.

2 Review and ratify minutes of meeting 10

Minutes of meeting #10 were ratified and the minutes are to be added to the ActewAGL website. Future agenda items suggested at meeting #10 are included for meeting #11.

3 ECRC member updates

Mr Williams invited members to put forward matters for discussion at future meetings.

The following matters were discussed:

- Mr Lord noted that there has not been a formal response from the ACT Government to COTAs submission on the Concessions Review. Ms Pipkorn confirmed that SEE-Change have not received a response to their submission.
- Ms Riethmiller updated the meeting on the proposal for an energy consumer community-based resource. It appears that funding may be available from Energy Consumers Australia, and they have approached the ACT Government for matching funding, however at this stage there is no formal response. The next stage is to approach all energy providers and the ACT Government. Mr Cunningham added that ActewAGL Distribution is doing an internal assessment of consumer engagement resources considering the next four-five years and is taking into consideration the role of this consumer community-based resource.
- Mr Lord noted that they have been approached by St Vinnies about conducting a survey on energy use by older Canberrans. Mr Cunningham added that ActewAGL Distribution may be able to work with St Vinnies and COTA to assist with this need. The data would be on electricity use.
- Ms Pipkorn noted that SEE-Change has been talking to the proponents of the micro-grid proposal in West Belconnen. Mr Cunningham noted that ActewAGL Distribution became involved in discussions in December 2015 and they are on-going with a number of regulatory and economic issues to be resolved. This is the first time a project of this scale, 11,000 homes, has been considered in Australia.
- Mr Cunningham and Mr Schulzer updated the meeting on the Denman-Prospect subdivision which will have mandatory PV arrays on all houses. The subdivision will have a stage 1 of 400 houses with a projected total of 2,000 houses; on-going discussions are happening with the consultants. . Issues being considered include impact on quality of electricity supply, exporting energy from the subdivision, cost effectiveness, financial impact on ActewAGL Distribution and future capital spend and the reality of solar and batteries in a Canberra winter.

4 ActewAGL Distribution Asset Management

Mr Mike Schulzer, Principal Engineer, Asset Management Strategy, ActewAGL Distribution was invited to present to the ECRC in response to questions from Council members at meeting #10 in relation to ActewAGL Distribution asset management planning.

The presentation included:

- managing issues with aging infrastructure (economically and safely),
- adherence to industry and international standards,
- how the assets serve the customers,
- ActewAGL management commitment to improve and comply with asset management,
- alignment to ActewAGL corporate strategy,
- risk profiles,
- justifying planned expenditure to external stakeholders,
- outsourcing,
- achieving improvement,
- adherence to regulations/legislation,
- benchmarking,
- asset management plans, and
- company operations to support asset management.

Discussion:

- The capability of the organisation is an important consideration within asset management. For instance, accounting systems, training, maintenance and human resources are required to manage assets.
- Long term planning including full life cycle of assets, use of emerging technologies and impact of advances in electric vehicles is considered. For instance, Denman Prospect is a new initiative so the full life cycle of assets needs to be taken into account and the potential to reduce the need for heavy infrastructure, what impacts this would have on zone sub stations and the use of control systems.
- Opportunities to engage with bigger customers on the use of emerging technology, for instance, the ANU is considering micro grids in the next 12 months.
- Interest in how ActewAGL Distribution undertakes future forecasting of demand and impacts of technology and lifestyle, such as increased teleworking. Particularly as the AER method for forecasting demand adopts a particular model. Mr Schulzer confirmed that ActewAGL Distribution has engaged a fulltime expert in forecasting to develop forecasts, including considering the AER's methodology but also other areas such as the anomalies in ACT weather patterns.

5 Electric Vehicles – Project Murrumbidgee

Mr Brent Lamont, Project Manager EV Charging Network Pilot Program, ActewAGL Distribution was invited to present to the ECRC in response to questions from Council members at meeting #10 in relation to electric vehicles.

Over the next 12 months a network will be built in Canberra to support electric vehicles. There has been interest from Canberra hotels to have electric vehicle charging stations and from surrounding Councils. Routes out of Canberra to Sydney, the snow and Batemans Bay are being considered.

The Research and Development phase has included the following considerations; home based chargers (8kwh), public chargers possibly using street lights (22kwh), rapid charges (50kwh - one installed for public use at ActewAGL Tuggeranong depot) and bi-directional storage. Mini-lab has been set up at Tuggeranong to look at the impact of load levelling and the impact on the network. This will be important to bring costs down to make it economically feasible for hotels to install charging stations.

ActewAGL Distribution is working with a number of Australian and overseas companies to find the best solution including a software solution that uses a smart phone app, providing an end-to-end solution. An RFID card is also available for those who do not have smartphones.

During the deployment phase the considerations include: having excess energy from electric vehicles being put back into the grid, discussions with UBER, second site needed for rapid charge – discussions with ACT Government and third site being explored.

Discussion:

- Questions were asked about the costs associated with charging an electric vehicle. Mr Lamont estimated the following current costs which apply regardless of using a rapid charge (15 minutes) or overnight based on 170km cost is around \$2.50. Tesla vehicles can travel 570km at a cost of \$6.00 worth of energy. A home based charger currently costs \$1200.
- Concern was expressed about advances in technology that may make the technology investment by ActewAGL Distribution now inefficient. Mr Lamont confirmed that the planning is based on the experience overseas, especially the Netherlands where the penetration of electric vehicles has increased rapidly. ActewAGL has joined a group in the Netherlands that are developing standards; an open network will be deployed by ActewAGL to address future changes in technology.
- It was suggested that consideration be given to the fact that a lot of older Canberrans do not have smart phones.
- It was noted that electric vehicles are very quiet so there could be safety issues with individuals not hearing an electric car approaching or reversing.
- Are the Canberra weather conditions being considered? Yes, the charging stations are from Europe and withstand a greater weather range than experienced in Canberra.
- Consideration of a business model that would work for business owners, for instance, charging stations near coffee shops. Mr Lamont confirmed that this is happening in Germany, McDonalds have charging stations.

- How much renewable energy is being used for the recharging? Mr Lamont confirmed that all sites will be metered through the ACT and so will use 100% renewable energy once the ACT reaches that target.
- In December 2015 there were 220 electric vehicles in Canberra.

6 Gas retail market procedure implementation.

Mr Gaykema provided the meeting with a presentation on the revised market rules that will apply in the ACT/NSW from 2 May 2016. ActewAGL Distribution and Jemena will update their market and billing systems to align with the market restart. The changes will drive customer benefits and some other customer impacts with minimal mass market impacts.

Risks are being considered and planned for. There will be no impact on safety. There will be interim transaction processes in place between 26 April and 5 May to meet customer timeframes with a soft start of new processing system from 2 May.

ECRC members will be advised via email of progress on the change-over and an update will be provided at ECRC meeting #12.

Discussion:

- Has any testing been undertaken? Mr Gaykema confirmed that testing has been done to mitigate risks.
- The plan is that the customer will not notice any change.

7 Legal appeal update

Ms Emily Brown provided the meeting with an update on the Tribunal decision and the subsequent appeal by the AER to the Federal Court.

Mr Gaykema noted that the final gas determination (originally expected 28 April 2016), is now intended to be released by the end of May due to the appeal.

8 Electricity Tariff Structure Statement (TSS) process

Ms Emily Brown provided the meeting with an update since meeting #10. The following relevant dates for 2016 were noted:

11 March	Australian Energy Regulator released an issues paper
28 April	Public submissions close to the Australian Energy Regulator
28 April	ActewAGL to host co-design workshop [date changed to 27 April]
5 May	Australian Energy Regulator public forum for stakeholders
1 July	Australian Energy Regulator draft TSS decision
Sept	Final TSS
Jan 17	Final Australian Energy Regulator Determination.

The co-design workshop was discussed. Invitations to attend the workshop will be extended to ECRC members, hospitality sector, construction industry, young people and organisations that have participated in previous TSS consultations.. ECRC members will be sent an invite to the Australian Energy Regulator forum 5 May.

9 Vegetation consultation

Mr Cunningham provided the meeting with an update. Community consultation has been undertaken by ActewAGL Distribution through four workshops in December 2015 and February 2016. Participants were from a variety of groups including Community Councils, Pialligo residents, ANU and the Conservation Council. Two written submission were received.

The areas of interest to the community included; comparison with other jurisdictions, communication plans with the community, rationale behind proposed changes and how it will be enforced and penalties. The community feedback included; concern about the impacts of proposed 1.5 meter clearance around urban power poles (backyards), ensuring work of the arborists is of a high standard and strong communication with the community on changes and impacts.

A final report on AAD's proposal to amend the prescribed vegetation clearance distances is being prepared and will forwarded to the ACT government for their consideration before their preparation of a ACT Legislature Cabinet submission in mid-2016. It was noted that the ACT Government may do more community consultation.

10 Other matters

a. Energy Saving Workshops

Mr Walshe provided an outline of workshops being run for the local community in May 2016. The six workshops across Canberra and Queanbeyan focus on simple tips and advice to prepare homes for winter and managing energy costs. Dates and registration can be found at <http://www.actewagl.com.au/workshops>

Ms Pipkorn noted that SEE-change is holding a House Blitz workshop in collaboration with Actsmart Home energy Advice Service on 28th May 2016, details are available at <http://www.see-change.org.au/house-blitz-workshops/>

b. Network Safety Campaign

Mr Walshe provided an update on the campaign. It was launched in September 2015 and will run until July 2016. The campaign provides information on behalf of ActewAGL Distribution on how to ensure a safe and reliable electricity supply. Key issues covered include vegetation management, storm safety, bushfire safety and helicopter patrols and the importance of dialling before you dig. Different platforms are being used to maximise exposure including, tv/web, radio, press campaign and online social media.

The 2016-17 campaign is being planned, it will consider covering emerging topics such as solar PV inverter safety.

11 Draft post-meeting Communique

The following matters were noted for inclusion in the Communique.

- Presentations by ActewAGL Distribution on electric vehicles and asset management
- Updates on ongoing matters.

12 Next meeting

Date was discussed it will be changed from 15 to 22 June at 9.30am Wednesday.

13 Meeting close

Mr Williams closed the meeting at 12:40pm.