

ActewAGL Distribution Energy Consumer Reference Council Communique

Meeting 21 – 6 December 2017

The ActewAGL Distribution Energy Consumer Reference Council (ECRC) met on 6 December 2017. Representatives from Council on the Aging ACT (COTA), Canberra Business Chamber, Property Council of Australia (ACT Division), Engineers Australia, ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS) and the Gungahlin and Tuggeranong Community Councils participated in the meeting.

Mr Michael Costello, CEO of ActewAGL, attended the meeting and briefly spoke to attendees. He highlighted the priorities for the organisation going forward including the importance of adopting new technologies. He thanked participants in the ECRC for their valued contribution to the work of ActewAGL Distribution.

The following presentations and associated discussion occurred at the meeting:

- **Evoenergy rebrand;** members of the ECRC were updated on the process of transition to the Evoenergy brand.
- **2019-24 Electricity Networks Regulatory Proposal;** ActewAGL Distribution representatives provided a presentation as part of the development of the 2019-24 Electricity Networks Regulatory Proposal to the Australian Energy Regulator. The presentation incorporated information and discussion in the areas of:
 - Customer feedback received to-date.
 - Proposed tariff strategy
 - Likely features of the proposed regulatory proposal including expected operating and capital expenditure, rate of return, impact on the Regulated Asset Base and impact on prices.

Members of the ECRC provided feedback during the presentation, including highlighting the importance of providing good information to customers during the transition to more cost-reflective tariffs.

Concern was expressed about the cost impact of the ACT Government's transfer of new responsibilities for management of vegetation clearing to ActewAGL Distribution.

- **2014-19 AER Decision Remittal;** presentation by ActewAGL Distribution on the status of the 2014-19 Electricity Determination which is yet to be finalised. It is expected the Regulator will reach a final decision before the end of 2018.
- **Power of Choice;** ActewAGL Distribution updated the meeting on the smooth transition to implement new metering requirements into the distribution business as a result of the regulatory reforms which came into effect on 1 December 2017.
- **“Gas-Plus” Energy Smart Home Trial;** ECRC was briefed on a trial that involves installation of smart gas and electricity appliances in ‘trial homes’ in Canberra (and surrounding areas) to study consumption behavior and energy usage of actual families under real Canberra climate. The program is being delivered in partnership with appliance manufacturers, industry associations and universities. The trial will help Canberra families understand the effectiveness of both gas and electricity appliances, their own consumption pattern and how to reduce energy consumption to save cost. The first pilot home is under construction and is expected to be complete in July 2018.

Copies of presentations and papers presented to the meeting are available at www.actewagl.com.au/consumerengagement. The next meeting of the ECRC is scheduled for February 2018. For further information contact Damien Anderson, ActewAGL on 02 6293 5861.