

## Evoenergy Energy Consumer Reference Council Communique Meeting 22 – 7 February 2018

The Evoenergy Energy Consumer Reference Council (ECRC) met on 7 February 2018. Representatives from Council on the Ageing ACT (COTA), Australian National University, Engineers Australia, Property Council of Australia (ACT Division), SeeChange and the Tuggeranong Community Council participated in the meeting.

### The following presentations and associated discussion occurred at the meeting:

- **ACT Government Net Zero Emissions Territory;** ACT Government gave a presentation on the key areas of priority as the Government seeks to transition to net zero emissions by 2045. Particular focus areas were energy, transport, waste and land use. This included discussion on how to transition from gas to electrification and gas alternatives such as biogas and hydrogen options.

Evoenergy presented the meeting with some thoughts around the importance of planning to manage peak demand, cost of transition and potential technological alternatives being considered.

ECRC members noted significant transition impacts, the timeliness of industry adjustment and associated market forces, as well as seeking to better understand the cost to household for the conversion of appliances as well as the overall network costs.

- **Virtual power plant trial;** Evoenergy provided a presentation on current trial being undertaken involving a simultaneous discharging of 400 residential batteries. Two reposit system trials were conducted in November last year. The results will be updated at the next meeting.
- **Vegetation management;** presentation by Evoenergy on the recent legislative changes extending the responsibility of Evoenergy's vegetation management program to urban open spaces. Evoenergy will be required to meet specific regulations and tree pruning in these areas are likely to be more severe and noticeable by the community.

ECRC members highlighted the importance of speaking with the community and identifying pathways to solutions for both the urban spaces and residential back yards.

- **Regulatory update;** ECRC was briefed on the 2019-24 regulatory proposal as submitted to the AER on 31 January. The AER is currently performing the required compliance check before the proposal is published and public submissions invited.
- **Evoenergy branding update;** Evoenergy updated the meeting on its new branding with positive response as people now understand the difference between retail and distribution. Having a dedicated website has made information to be more accessible.
- **Network Prices:** Evoenergy provided the third presentation of a series on energy pricing. This included an explanation of the components of a typical electricity bill (network costs, energy purchase costs and retail costs) and the way in which the network cost components apply to fixed and variable charges.

Copies of presentations and papers presented to the meeting are available at <https://www.evoenergy.com.au/en/consumer-engagement-program>. The next meeting of the ECRC is scheduled for April 2018. For further information contact Damien Anderson, Evoenergy on 02 6293 5861.