

## **Evoenergy Energy Consumer Reference Council Communique**

### **Meeting 46 – 7 April 2022**

The Evoenergy Energy Consumer Reference Council (ECRC) met virtually on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 to comply with COVID-safe requirements.

Member representatives attended from Tuggeranong Community Council, Gungahlin Community Council, the ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS), Better Renting, the Council on the Ageing (COTA), ACT Conservation Council, Master Builders Association. Observers attended from the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and Australian Competition and the Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The following presentations and discussion occurred at the meeting:

#### **FY22/23 Pricing proposal**

Ms Emily Brown presented on the Electricity and Gas Network Pricing Proposals and the Tariff Structure Statement. An overview of pricing for 2022–23 showed a predicted increase in gas network prices and a decrease in electricity prices. The electrical volume comparison forecast was presented for consumption per residential and commercial customers, showing a decline in commercial use and an increase in residential use largely driven by lockdown with people working from home, plus milder weather. It is expected that due to fewer lockdowns and returning to office arrangements for 2022–23, residential use will decrease. Ms Brown briefly expanded on the electricity network tariff reform, two-way pricing strategy development and consumer engagement.

#### **EN24 Engagement update**

Ms Gillian Symmans provided an update on the EN24 & TSS engagement panel. Since the previous ECRC meeting 45 in February, two sessions had been conducted. The third session took place on 12 February 2022 and the fourth on 19 March 2022. Ms Symmans explained that key topics of discussion were the potential impacts for vulnerable members of the community; Evoenergy's net zero 2030 position and taking action sooner; green gas and hydrogen and how it can be incorporated into the network, and key decisions and incentives for the energy transition. The council discussed Evoenergy's net zero modelling timeframe and whether those targets could be achieved.

#### **Energy transition – modelling recap & discussion**

Mr Peter Billing provided a brief revision of energy transition topics that were discussed in the previous ECRC 45 meeting in February. The council was reminded of the three net zero scenarios: full electrification, electricity + green gas and a base case. The approach to Evoenergy's net zero 2030 pathway was revisited, and how the components will impact how net zero by 2045 will be achieved. Consumer feedback and comments from ECRC meeting 45 were presented to attendees, which lead into an open discussion for the council to ask questions about the Evoenergy model.

#### **Customer share**

Ms Helen Oakey, from the Conservation Council presented a brief overview of the key energy policy issues for a safe climate which was released in the ACT Election Priorities 2020. Several challenges were presented to the council with wood burning heaters a high priority. Ms Oakey spoke about the 'Make the Switch' program, an informative website providing the tools and information in relation to transitioning from gas to electricity. The initiatives and findings from the program were detailed to the council. The presentation concluded with Ms Oakey addressing her concerns for the process to switch from gas to electricity.

#### **Safety share**

Mr Peter Billing spoke about an incident that took place involving Evoenergy workers. The incident involved a staff member injuring their back from hauling heavy wires through complex terrain. Equipment was available to perform this task but unfortunately was not utilised at the time. The moral of the safety share was 'the way we did it in the past, doesn't mean it's still the right way'. Evoenergy has collaborated with workers to ensure machinery and equipment is fully utilised where possible, to limit manual labour and avoid injury.

#### **Member update**

Member updates covered discussions around current national and international issues that are seriously impacting material supply for the construction industry, underground electric and NBN connections, and the community workshop 'Don't Get Left Out in the Cold'.

Information about the ECRC is available on our website: [www.evoenergy.com.au/consumerengagement](http://www.evoenergy.com.au/consumerengagement).

The next meeting of the Evoenergy Energy Consumer Reference Council is to be held in June 2022. For further information please contact Evoenergy Communication & Engagement Manager Samantha Lloyd on 02 6248 3524.