

Evoenergy Energy Consumer Reference Council Communique Meeting 45 – 3 February 2022

The Evoenergy Energy Consumer Reference Council (ECRC) met on 3 February 2022 virtually to comply with COVID-safe requirements.

Representatives from Tuggeranong Community Council, Gungahlin Community Council, the ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS), Better Renting, the Council on the Ageing (COTA), Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF), ACT Conservation Council participated in the meeting.

Observers from the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) were also in attendance for the meeting.

The following presentations and discussion occurred at the meeting:

Safety Share

Mr Wahid Ibrahim, Evoenergy Incident Controller of the Incident Management Team spoke on how Evoenergy provided an update on management of COVID as it evolves and impacts the community and organisation. He explained the mitigation measures that have been implemented since August 2021 to prevent COVID cross-contamination, with the focus being to keep the workers and customers safe whilst continuing to operate and maintain the networks. Mr Ibrahim also explained the operating model variations that Evoenergy incorporated when responding to the severe storm incident that occurred early January that triggered major network outages across the Belconnen region.

Customer Share

Professor Barbara Norman, from CURF shared information on the projects and businesses that she is currently involved with and influencing. Prof. Norman spoke on several national issues impacting the energy sector including phasing out of fossil fuel vehicles by 2040 and climate adaptation plans. Reflecting on CURF's locally focused issues, Prof. Norman noted the energy sector's new suburbs mandating gas, planning for climate risks, which relate with her new book to be published in June with topics on green infrastructure, community solar farms, planning landscape for the future and electric cars. Key points that were recognised were collaboration, working together and sharing knowledge within groups to deliver a positive change for the community.

Energy Transition – Modelling

Presenters: Peter Billing, Evoenergy General Manager, Leylann Hinch, Group Manager Strategy and Operations, Bruce Hansen, Group Manager Gas Network. Presenters provided an in-depth background and explanation to Evoenergy's Net Zero Model (NZM) Project throughout the presentation.

Evoenergy spoke about the organisation's commitment to working towards a sustainable, net zero emissions future for the ACT by 2045 (NZ45). Mr Billing spoke about the net zero transition roadmap that has been carefully developed with considerations to energy safety, reliability, security, customer choice, and how it will be delivered at least cost to customers. Over the past 12 months Evoenergy have engaged with a number of specialist nationally and globally to investigate the best way to reduce emissions and prepare for the growing demand on our electricity network. The model is complex and dynamic, with flexibility to change assumptions and model different scenarios as new information emerges. Two core modelling scenarios with multiple implementation pathways are presented with all set to achieve NZ45, but varying in terms of their impact. Forecasted data from the model and scenarios show a number of key findings including the uptake of zero emission vehicles, growth in electricity consumption, a steep increase in capex investment for the business, practicalities of the energy transition for the networks, and the cost and impact of potentially decommissioning the gas network. To achieve NZ45 Evoenergy recognises our role as an enabler and facilitator, and are working to ensure the energy delivered to Canberrans remains safe and reliable, and is delivered at least cost now and into the future.

ECRC information is available at www.evoenergy.com.au/consumerengagement

The next meeting of the Evoenergy Energy Consumer Reference Council is to be held in April 2022.

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