

**Energy Consumers Australia Board Meeting Communique**

**9 April 2015**

**Administrative/Financial Arrangements**

As an organisation still in its establishment phase, the Board of ECA continued with the task of creation and approval of Policies and Procedures required for the organisation.

In addition, the Board welcomed a presentation from ECA's newly appointed auditor and the opportunity to discuss key elements of the 2014-15 audit.

**Board Director Resignation**

The Board noted with great regret that Dr Gillian Owen would be resigning as a Director on the ECA Board. However, the Board will continue to utilise her extensive experience and knowledge through agreed consultancy projects aimed at catalysing the impact of consumers in the governance and outcomes of the energy market.

The Board has advised the Member of ECA of the resignation and will proceed with a permanent Board appointment through the COAG Energy Council processes as is stipulated in the ECA Constitution.

**Reference Committee**

The Board considered the applications for inclusion in its Reference Committee and was pleased to select the inaugural group. Members have been notified of their selection and appointment, with the first ECA Board and Reference Committee meeting scheduled to be held in Melbourne in June 2015.

The Board noted the importance of the Reference Committee to act as an advisory group to the Board on consumer issues generally. Initial responsibilities for the group will include: the provision of effective advice to the Board on emerging consumer issues and on the development of ECA's work program, and the sharing of grass roots consumer feedback and research.

### **Selection of the ECA Chief Executive Officer**

The Board, having concluded an extensive selection process, agreed to appoint Mrs Rosemary Sinclair as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of ECA. Mrs Sinclair brings with her extensive experience in senior roles in both business and government across the telecommunications, media and education sectors. The announcement of Mrs Sinclair's appointment can be found (insert link to page on website).

### **Liaison with Consumer and Community Groups**

The Board had resolved at an earlier meeting that it would ensure that meetings were held throughout the NEM to enable consumer, small business, environment and organisations representing disadvantaged consumers and others to meet informally on regular basis with all of the Board members.

A variety of groups were invited to an informal lunch meeting to 'meet and greet', raise issues about energy markets on which there were concerns or on which they were currently working, and to further contribute to the thinking about ECA priorities. The Board all agreed that this format was very useful for building shared knowledge and networking amongst the consumer advocacy community involved in energy market outcomes,