

Board Communique: May 2018

The Energy Consumers Australia Board met in Canberra on 10 May 2018. The Board also hosted a Stakeholder Forum on 9 May 2018 and met with the Board Reference Committee the following day.

Board Stakeholder Forum

The Stakeholder Forum was attended by 58 people from advocacy and community groups, governments, universities and energy market participants across the supply chain. Presentations and discussions focused on:

- Optimising consumer outcomes in the distributed energy future (Lachlan Blackhall, ANU Research School of Engineering)
- The outcomes of previous Energy Consumers Australia-funded research grants, (Lynne Gallagher, Director of Research, Energy Consumers Australia)

The key themes emerging from the general discussion were the importance of enabling new technologies into a more competitive market while at the same time enabling consumer protections. The Energy Consumers Australia Board sincerely thanks all attendees for contributing.

Board Reference Committee meeting

The Reference Committee met for the second time in 2018 following the Board meeting. The Reference Committee discussed the AER discussion paper: Profitability Measures for Electricity and Gas Network Businesses with a presentation from AER officials at the meeting.

Board meeting

The Board considered applications for Energy Consumers Australia grant funding. Interest in the Grants Program continues to be very strong, with applications in this round once again exceeding the entire annual grants budget. The Board considered 13 applications, approving 2 grants:

- Alternative Technology Association – Managing the transition: safeguarding consumer outcomes during energy market transformation
- Council of Small Business Australia – Future proofing your energy bills: toolbox for small business

The Board thanked all applicants for the time and effort they invest in their applications. The Grants Program continues to support impactful advocacy and research projects, with examples of this work showcased at the Stakeholder Forum.

Next meeting

14 June 2018, Sydney.