

Board Communique: October 2017

The Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) Board met in Canberra on 19 October preceded by the ACT Stakeholder Forum on 18 October and followed by a meeting of the Board Reference Committee.

1. Stakeholder forum

The Board holds a stakeholder forum in every NEM capital each year. The 2017 Canberra forum was attended by over 50 people. Attendees discussed and commented on a broad range of aspects of energy markets and debates, as well as hearing presentations from:

- The ACT government, about its program of innovation
- The Council of Small Business of Australia, about current energy market conditions for small business
- The Australian Solar Council, about the IT programs and apps that are enabling new energy services
- ECA, to launch a new report analysing the multiple impacts of energy efficiency on vulnerable households.

2. Board Reference Committee

- The Reference Committee met for the first time since a number of new appointments were made, following a call for nominations in June this year. Committee members come from key consumer and small business groups who work on energy markets issues.
- Members shared their expectations and aspirations for the Reference Committee and also began identifying key energy market issues that are affecting the groups they work with - energy prices being a notable common thread.

3. Board Meeting

The primary focus of the Board meeting was consideration of the October grants round. A range of grants were considered and 7 applications were approved, which include 2 variations.

- The Board also met with:
 - officials from the Commonwealth Government, to discuss a broad range of energy policy issues, and
 - ACT Government Officials, to discuss jurisdictional and national energy policy matters.

4. Next Meeting

- 9 November, Adelaide (Annual General Meeting).