

**Energy Consumers Australia Board Meeting Communiqué
10 September 2015**

Reference Committee

The second meeting of the [ECA Reference Committee](#) was held. The Committee is an important source of input and advice to ECA.

The agenda for this meeting included discussion of ECA's early work to re-frame disconnection policy approaches, to identify alternative mechanisms to ensure no consumer is disconnected because of an inability to pay. Committee members also discussed the need to clarify the definition of the long-term interests of consumers.

Reference Committee raised their key issues, and discussed potential mechanisms to facilitate building sectoral capacity.

ECA and the Public Interest Advocacy Centre also briefed Committee members on the new resource to assist consumer advocacy organisations engage in legal processes surrounding the regulation of electricity and gas. ECA has commissioned PIAC for 12 months to engage a senior solicitor who will be able to work with advocates to frame and engage with the legal issues pertaining to their energy market work.

Grants Review

The Board agreed to publish an [Issues Paper](#) outlining the principles underpinning the review and seeking stakeholder input on the proposed features of the grant program. Submissions are due 30 October 2015.

Operational matters

The Board welcomed the move to ECA's new premises at Level 14, 1 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Grants approved

At this meeting, the Board approved the following grants:

- AP 764 – Tasmanian Small Business Council – Submission to Tas Government on future gas supply (\$32,000 exc GST)

A full list of ECA grants can be seen at its [website](#).