

Energy Consumers Australia Board Meeting Communique – 15 September 2016

Board Meeting

The ECA Board met in Sydney on 15 September, considering the organisation's advocacy agenda, as well as a number of governance matters.

The Board noted its sadness at Gill Owen's passing. Gill was an inaugural Director of ECA and her advice and assistance were greatly valued by the organisation.

Drawing on the insights from in ECA's Energy Consumer Sentiment Survey, and the Regional Listening Tour, the Board agreed an advocacy agenda based on two propositions: firstly, that consumers should, pay no more than is necessary for their energy services as we transition to a cleaner economy; and secondly, that no one is left without the energy services they need to be part of the mainstream economy and society.

In setting the agenda, which builds on the five strategic priorities in ECA's 2016/17 Business Plan, the Board considered the role that ECA can play in helping foster open and collaborative approaches across the energy market to improve outcomes for energy consumers.

The governance matters before the Board included: the planning process and timeline for ECA's 2017/18 Business Plan and Budget; ECA's Branding and Communication strategies; and the structure of ECA's 2015/16 Annual Report.

The Board also considered reports from each of the ECA Directorates and the Office of the CEO, outlining progress against the Business Plan priorities. The Board welcomed the outcomes of this work, including:

- the interest in the findings of ECA's Energy Consumer Sentiment Survey, and the forthcoming SME tariff tracker;
- renewed emphasis by governments and regulators on the '*long-term interests of consumers*' objective of the national energy market arrangements; and
- positive response from stakeholders in early conversations about strategies ECA is developing to reduce the number of consumers who are disconnected from their energy supply.

The Board also noted that the next ECA Foresighting Forum will be held in Sydney during the week of 20 February 2017.

After the meeting, the Board met with the Australian Energy Regulator's Board Members to discuss energy market developments, priority issues for consumers, and the ECA's strategic priorities.