South Australia

- The new interconnector with NSW. Quite a deal of discussion about costs and benefits both in SA and NSW. The modelling used to generate the business case is being challenged by some, including SACOSS challenge. There is strong support from SA Government so suspect that it will go ahead.
- The interconnector raises a number of questions about the ISP and who pays and how consumers are engaged in consideration of costs and benefits of ISP projects and the strategy overall?
- SAPN have lodged their regulatory proposal for 2020-25. A partnership of 3 organisations, led by SA Financial Counsellors Assoc, have been funded by ECA to engage on their proposal. Main topics of interest: IT expenditure, application of new taxation guideline, connections and future network.
- AGIG and ElectraNet are planning their next regulatory proposals.
- SA Government 40,000 batteries scheme is underway, with slow initial take up.

South Australia

- Concessions policy continues to be a problem, particularly the state's cumbersome application process. Energy concession increases by CPI in recent state budget
- Uniting Communities finalising their ECA funded project on resourcing consumer engagement. This is the top is of a separate session at the Roundtable.
- And from Water, a "negotiation Forum" of 3 SA Water Senior Staff and 3 consumer perspective people, appointed by State regulator, have just completed a first "negotiation" process. See Mark Henley for more information.
- An independent review of SA Water RAB base has just been presented to the SA Government, we assume it will propose some RAB writer down. Relevant due to ACCC recommendations about some electricity networks. SA Government has just announced it will take a 100% dividend from all state owned businesses, eg SA Water (was 95%)

Federal updates

- ECA
  - Energy Consumer Sentiment Survey June 2019 results released
  - Small Business Tariff Tracker June results released
- ESB
  - Preparing advice for COAG EC on converting the Integrated System Plan
  - Considering Post 2025 market design
- ARENA & AEMC
  - Integrating DER and the network regulatory framework
- Commonwealth
  - First phase of Underwriting new generation project to commence 1 July
  - DMO to commence 1 July
  - Big stick legislation to be reintroduced

More Federal updates

- A stack of AEMC rule changes and reviews (including demand response mechanism, COGATI, stand alone power supplies, embedded networks)
- AEMO ISP 2019
- AER review of ICT
- Reliability forecasting (AEMC, AEMO)

- Also a re-elected Federal Government, what does this mean for participants at the roundtable?

After lunch jurisdictional mapping

National Consumer Roundtable On Energy June 2019

ACT

- 2020 – 25 Energy Policy
- Reducing emissions in transport
  - Domestic
  - EVs
  - Commercial fleet (light vehicles / heavy vehicle)
- Not concession holders (expansion of EECs ; private rental EE upgrades)
- Customer code review by ICRC
- Tariff models + informing consumers
- Transition to smart meters
- Research – impact of cold and heat in home on health risks and mortality
- Gas Network 21-26 - $30K

Tasmania

- Embedded Networks: Any changes to the National Energy Customer Framework (NECF) cannot be implemented in Tasmania unless changes are also made to the National Energy Retail law (Tasmanian) Act 2012. A review of the legislative framework is now underway.
- Replacement of the Aurora Pay As You Go Product: Existing PAYG customers are required to choose between standing offer tariffs and a PAYG + product that is offering a TOU tariff. A $40 annual fee is being offered on an opt in basis under a separate unregulated contract.
- New Entrants: 1st Energy: entered the market in February 2019 as a retailer for both residential and small business sector. In June 2019 Catch Energy announced there were also entering the market. Catch is in partnership with 1st Energy and focuses on the marketing side. The Energy Ombudsman has received a number of complaints against their marketing practices , particularly with customers being signed up without their consent.

Tasmania

- 2019 FIT Rate Investigation: 2019 – 20 FY will see an 9% increase in the feed-in tariff rate from the previous financial year.
- AER TasNetworks Price Determination: 1st July start of new regulatory period through until June 2024. Progress continues to expose a weakness in the working relationship with the Aurora.
- Project Marinus: All of the state government narrative is about meeting demand in the national market, Tasmania's natural advantages, promoting renewable energy investment and the potential benefits (jobs and investment) for the state. The issue of who pays and who profits remains unanswered.

Victoria

- The Victorian Default Offer reregulated pricing for electricity starts 1 July.
- Other retail competition changes will also happen 1 July: new standardised factsheets, 'best price offer notifications' on bills and 'clear advice entitlement' where retailers will have to discuss the best offer for a potential customer.
- Embedded Networks – VDO price will not apply instead a cap at current ROLR standing offer prices. ESC tasked with developing a cap for July 2020.
- ESC 'clear and fair contracts' issues paper on 12 month fixed pricing, limiting conditional discounting to actual costs and how households who do not engage will default at the end of a contract or benefit period. Changes due July 2020.
- Pictures of solar panels on the budget papers. '770,000' Solar Homes 1.3 billion over 10 years– rebates and NILS for Victorian households to get solar systems, batteries and solar hot water.
- 27 million for the ESC over 4 years also in budget.

Victoria

- Legislation for “CRACKING DOWN ON DODGY RETAILERS” election commitments likely to be moved early 2020.
- Family violence reforms – from 1 January 2020 retailers will have to have a family violence policy and meet minimum standards on training, account security, customer service, debt management practices, external support services and evidence of family violence.
- Utility Relief Grants Scheme changes happen from 1 July.
- Network reset process beginning for five electricity networks. Networks proposing TOU tariffs.
- Transmission and Distribution Strategies from Victorian Government.
- Renewable Energy Roadmaps around communities in Victoria. Preferences for smaller sale community level energy projects.
- Residential Tenancy Act changes from just before the election included powers to regulate energy efficiency in rental housing. Consultation beginning on process with Consumer Affairs and DEWLP