

## **Board Communique: June 2018**

The Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) Board met at the company's offices in Sydney on 14 June, 2018. As it was the last Board meeting of the financial year, the Board's discussions centred on the activities of ECA's four Directorates: Advocacy and Communications; Research (including Power Shift); the Office of the Chief Executive Officer; and, Governance and Operations.

The workstream reports to the Board gave a strategic overview of ECA's activities in 2017-18 and the anticipated priorities for the year ahead. The Board noted that there have been a number of notable achievements over the year, which will be outlined in the FY17-18 Annual Report. In particular, the Board commended the work in the following areas:

- contributions to initiatives stemming from the Finkel Review, including the integration of emissions and energy policy through the National Energy Guarantee;
- promoting more effective competition in retail markets, including through engagement in market reviews, reforms and rules processes, and through the flagship Energy Consumer Sentiment Survey;
- participation in individual network revenue determination processes, in collaboration with other advocates, to ensure least cost outcomes for consumers at levels of reliability the community has come to expect;
- participation in AER reviews of the Expected Inflation and Rate of Return Guidelines, and the development of the NewReg model as an alternative model to increase consumer voice in revenue determinations;
- the contribution to the work of the Gas Market Reform Group, led by Dr Michael Vertigan, which will put downward pressure on retail gas prices;
- the persuasive evidence base built through Power Shift, which underlines the value of helping consumers manage their energy effectively. The tools ECA has developed for decision-makers will help government and industry build better programs and products, and will be complemented by the Voluntary Guideline to be developed in 2018/19
- the successful funding of 23 grants in 2017-18, with a number of grants approved in previous years completed this year and contributing influential research and advocacy to key policy and reform processes.

The Board discussed the implications for ECA's forward Business Plan of the 2017-18 achievements and outcomes.

### **Next meeting**

12 July 2018, Sydney.