

Energy Consumers Australia Board Meeting Communique 17 March 2016

Meeting with Australian Energy Market Commissioners

The ECA Board met the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) Chair, John Pierce, and Commissioners Dr Brian Spalding and Neville Henderson. The Chief Executive Officers of each organisation also participated in the discussion.

Discussions focused on the emerging market issues, such as challenges to reliability and security of supply caused by the market's changing fuel generation mix, affordability and National Gas Market governance and supply issues. Each organisation provided an overview of their strategic and work program priorities.

The Board and AEMC agreed that regular meetings would be of value.

Strategic Planning

The Board discussed its draft 2016/17 business plan, forward budget and 2016/2019 Strategic Context document which will be provided ¹ to the Member, the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis, SA Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy who may provide copies of, and consult with, the Energy Council.²

A summary of the plan will be published on ECA's website.

ECA Foresighting Forum

The Board was briefed on ECA's inaugural Foresighting Forum, held in Sydney on 25-26 February, and which included all ECA stakeholder groups – consumer advocates, regulators, policy-makers, industry and Ombudsmen.

Presentations made clear that there is a broad consensus within the sector on what are the emerging challenges for the National Energy Market, including the transition to a next gen services market, empowering consumers to participate in that market, and ensuring that market and regulatory design facilitate that transition to benefit consumers.

The Forum provided an effective lens through which to identify consumer priorities, and the areas in which there might be opportunities for each of those stakeholder groups to share knowledge and areas for potential collaboration and/or research.

ECA will shortly publish a report on the Forum to initiate work on two to three key issues.

¹ ECA Constitution, Page 21, 18.3 (a, b)

² ECA Constitution, Page 22, 18.3(d)