

# Board Meeting Communique

**23 March 2017**

**The Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) Board met in Melbourne on 23 March to consider input from stakeholders on the impact of recent energy market development on consumers and updates on ECA's strategic priorities.**

The Board discussed the key recent announcements and developments in Australian energy markets. These include the initiatives announced by the South Australian Government (welcomed by Energy Consumers Australia) and the report from the Grattan Institute into the Victorian retail energy market (also welcomed by Energy Consumers Australia), as well as responses to current gas supply challenges.

In relation to each of these issues, the Board noted the importance of ensuring that the needs of residential and small consumers are prioritised as part of any response to Australia's current energy challenges.

The Board considered the nominations process for the refresh of the ECA Reference Committee, as well as the operation of the Committee to ensure it is mutually beneficial to both the members who contribute their time and the ECA Board.

Finally, the Board received detailed updates on the recent work of ECA's Directorates. The Board welcomed the outcomes of this work, including:

- ECA's contribution to the Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market;
- ECA's contribution to the Victorian Government's inquiry into retail energy markets;
- Outcomes and presentations from the ECA Foresighting Forum 2017.

The meeting was preceded by a Stakeholder Forum on 22 March. Around 40 participants attended the forum, from a wide variety of stakeholder groups including residential and business consumer advocates, energy market institutions, industry and researchers.

Attendees at the Stakeholder Forum raised a range of issues about the current challenges in energy markets. Participants expressed broad agreement that consistently aligned whole of sector positions on key issues will be important to achieving the necessary reforms to energy markets.

The next Board meeting will be held in Hobart on 20 April 2017, in conjunction with a meeting of the ECA Reference Committee.