

Board Communique: November 2017

The Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) Board met in Adelaide on Thursday 9 November for the Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM). A Board Stakeholder Forum was held in Adelaide on the evening of Wednesday 8 November.

Board Stakeholder Forum

The Stakeholder Forum was attended by around 45 people from small business and community organisations, regulators, ombudsmen, government officials, transmission and distribution companies, academics and financial counsellors. The forum received presentations on:

- How energy prices are affecting small business in South Australia (from Business SA)
- Energy and poverty for consumers in South Australia (from The Energy Project).

Attendees at the forum also discussed the key issues facing South Australian energy consumers, in both the immediate and longer term. The key themes that emerged were:

- Energy prices are severely affecting the viability of many small business in South Australia. High energy prices are constraining small business from being able to expand and innovate.
- Affordable energy requires the effective interaction of energy **policy**, social **policy**, environment **policy and** consumer **policy**.
- There is intensive summer readiness preparation in South Australia, i.e., making sure that all the arrangements are in place across the state for uninterrupted power supply this summer.

Given the significant recent electricity supply events in the region, the South Australian perspective has a particular importance in informing ECA's national work. ECA's Board thanks all attendees for their contribution.

Board Meeting

The Board met with Senior Officials from the South Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet to discuss current energy policy matters, including significant energy initiatives being undertaken by the SA government, consumer outcomes and market developments in South Australia.

The Board convened ECA's AGM, presenting the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements to the Executive Director Energy and Technical Regulation, SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet, who represented ECA's sole Member, the South Australian Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy.

Next Meeting

7 December, in Sydney