

# Board Communique: September 2017

**The Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) Board met in Sydney on 21 September 2017.**

## **Board Meeting**

The Board received detailed reports about the recent activities of the staff and organisation, including in the areas of Advocacy and Communications, Research and Strategic Engagement. The highlights of these reports included:

- The impending release of the first SME Retail Tariff Tracker report. The analysis lays bare the price increases that SMEs are experiencing and is intended to be a regular ECA publication
- An update on the assessment of low-income energy efficiency programs that has been commissioned as part of the *Power Shift* project. The analysis seeks to identify which initiatives were most effective in changing behaviour and reducing consumption, with a view to informing future program design
- A report on activities stemming from the intense focus on affordability and retail energy markets, including responses from jurisdictional governments and ECA's strategic engagement with retailers in relation to the Prime Minister's retail market initiatives
- An update on ECA's involvement in progress on (and debate about) the implementation of the recommendations in the Finkel Review, including the introduction of a Clean Energy Target
- A request ECA has received from the COAG Energy Council to develop 'well targeted and clear information on consumer rights and protections behind the meter'.

Other focus areas at the meeting included ECA's corporate planning and reporting processes. The Board:

- Received and accepted the audited financial statements and Annual Report for 2015/16
- Reviewed and approved ECA's Business Plan for 2018/19
- Reviewed and approved ECA's budget for 2018/19. The Budget will now be forwarded to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Council for their final approval.

## **Next Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be held in Canberra on 19 October 2017. This will be preceded by a Stakeholder Forum and the first meeting of the new Reference Committee will be held on 19 October.