

Foresighting Forum 2018: Closing remarks

Speech by Rosemary Sinclair, CEO of Energy Consumers Australia
Event Foresighting Forum 2018
Date 1 March 2018
Topic Affordable, optimised and individualised energy
Location Aerial Function Centre, University of Technology Sydney

These are the closing remarks CEO Rosemary Sinclair presented at Energy Consumers Australia's annual flagship event Foresighting Forum 2018.

And now for the heartfelt thanks, I want to thank our 9 chairs and 41 speakers – and you – for two days where we did exactly what we hoped we could do, and that was dig into the affordability and transformation challenges in a way that we seldom can in the current environment.

And in doing so – in exploring how we can integrate, vices, prices and devices – I think we leave today with a new set of insights, and the beginnings of new connections and partnerships, that we can draw on in our different roles and different organisations to confront the:

Now – affordable energy:

- Complementary measures that work.
- A sharper statement about incomes, housing and comfort.
- Competition that drives prices down and innovation up.

And the next, optimised and individualised energy:

- Designing and deploying the next generation of tools and services to help consumers manage their energy use.
- Integrating our thinking about consumer needs and behaviour with the need to reform the way we value and price energy services...how we finally seize the opportunity of demand response.
- Clearing the way for consumers to generate, share, trade individually or as a community.

A game changing conversation to re-make the energy system for consumers and by consumers.

Energy Consumers Australia's next step is to consolidate and reflect on what you have said, in the presentations, in the plenaries, on Entergy app and in the chair vox pops. And publish this as a shared public resource on our website.

Energy Consumers Australia's other immediate task – Kerry Connors' task...hi Kerry! – is to map what we've heard against our Power Shift agenda. Our goal is to take next generation energy management for all consumers to scale, and the clues about how we do it were sprinkled through the discussion yesterday and today.

And we want to start the conversation about Foresighting Forum 2019 today...and that is a conversation about one of the recurring themes over the past 2 days... DATA.

Data to inform individualised choices, and create value for all consumers. To help consumers Take Charge.

Data to optimise the system, to wring every last bit of capacity and potential from our infrastructure, to connect and coordinate a dynamic, decentralised system.

And in a broader context, data to drive the next great wave of microeconomic reform, starting with the Open Banking work the Treasurer recently announced, but coming to energy next.

We need to be ready because we know that there are unique challenges in energy that necessarily shape the solution.

- What is the goal, and what are the benefits realised?
- What is the pathway to the goal?
- What are the things we need to do now to get started?

Our Senior Economist, David Havyatt, will be leading the development of Foresighting Forum 2019.

David has been leading our own work exploring the ways to make meter data available quickly and conveniently to third parties such as comparison sites and DER providers.

To streamline choices and super-charge service innovation.

We will be forming a program steering committee to assist us in the task and today I open our call for expressions of interest in serving on that steering committee.

I thank you for your willingness to come together, to open-up, debate, talk and explore.

I would like to thank all ECA staff for their work in developing, managing and supporting Foresighting Forum 2018.

Lynne, Kerry, Jim, Emily, Chris, Phil, Rose, Oli, Sabiene, David, Mohua, Kristine, Pete, Elizabeth, Ronald, and our event experts Angela and her Elizabeth.

We all know a successful forum doesn't just happen, it's the result of planning, prioritising, communication and cooperation: on your behalf, thank you ECA!

I personally walk away today with a real feeling of optimism about the now and the next.

Safe travels, let's keep talking and working together, see you at Foresighting Forum 2019.