

Communique - Energised Consumers Project Officer May to July 2017

The past three months have been busy, with the bulk of work being contributing Submissions to a number of organisations that had put out discussion and consultation papers.

With the assistance of Consortium members and input from Consumer Representatives Submissions were made to:

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) regarding Priority Household Targets (May)

Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy 2017 Review of Climate Change Policies Discussion Paper (May)

ACCC Inquiry into Retail Electricity Supply And Pricing (June)

Australian Energy Regulator re Access to Dispute Resolution Services for Exempt Customers Issues Paper. (July)

ACT Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme Proposed Updates to Residential Energy Saving Activities Consultation Paper (July).

In addition an Oral Report, based on the Submission lodged in April, was presented to the ICRC regarding Standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers for 2017 and myself and Shelley Clarke, a member of the ACT Consumer Consultation Group for Energy Matters, participated in the ActewAGL Distribution Consultations on Priorities for the ACT Electricity Network.

The key points made in Submissions were that the interests of low income and vulnerable consumers need to be protected in decision making, that low income consumers, particularly those in public housing and rental properties, are least able to take up measures to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption and that the energy market needs to be operating in the interests of consumers.

Key meetings included meeting (with Susan Helyar) with Ayesha Razzaq, ActewAGL Retail, regarding Power of Choice issues and hardship policy and meeting with EPSDD regarding changes to the Priority Household Target Groups.

Other activities included attending the EPSDD 's Community and Stakeholder Roundtable 2 on ACT's Climate Strategy to Zero 2050, participating in a Webinar to provide input to, and attending a forum on, the ACOSS, Brotherhood of St Lawrence, The Climate Institute report on empowering vulnerable households through decarbonisation, and providing input to a letter to Minister Frydenberg, MP Minister for Environment and Energy from ACOSS.

In addition, I participated in the regular meetings of the National Consumers Roundtable on Energy, the ActewAGL Distribution Energy Consumer Reference Council, the ACOSS Climate & Energy Policy Network teleconferences, and AEMO and AEMC teleconferences, and also did training through AEMO on Fundamentals of the National Electricity Market.

A detailed list of activities follows.

I have also attached the ECA Grant Progress report to end May.

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Note Hours of Work 9am-5pm Tuesday, Wednesday



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Submissions

- 3 May 2017 Lodged Submission to Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) regarding Priority Household Targets
- 3 May 2017 Presented Oral Report to ICRC regarding Standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers for 2017.
- 9 May 2017 Lodged Submission to the Dept of Environment and Energy 2017 Review of Climate Change Policies Discussion Paper
- 29 June 2017 Lodged Submission to ACCC Inquiry into Retail Electricity Supply And Pricing
- 17 July 2017 Lodged Submission to Australian Energy Regulator re Access to Dispute Resolution Services for Exempt Customers Issues Paper.
- 26 July 2017 Made submission in response to ACT Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme Proposed Updates to Residential Energy Saving Activities Consultation Paper

Other Activities

- 1 May 2017 Attended EPSDD 's Community and Stakeholder Roundtable 2 on ACTs Climate Strategy to Zero 2050
- 3 May 2017 Participated in ACOSS Webinar for input into ACOSS, BSL, TCI report on empowering vulnerable households through decarbonisation
- 17 May 2017 Participated in AEMO Consumer Forum by Teleconference
- 26 May 2017 Attended ACOSS organised Decarbonisation and Vulnerable Households - Canberra Stakeholder forum – with Consumer Advocates from throughout Australia and member of Department of The Environment and Energy
- 30 May 2017 Met with ACT Energy Policy Consortium
- 1 June 2017 Met (with Susan Helyar) with Ayesha Razzaq, General Manager, Retail ActewAGL to discuss hardship and Power of Choice issues
- 6 June 2017 Undertook AEMO training – The National Electricity Market Fundamentals (NEM) – this was a pilot course and we also had a feedback session as part of the training.
- 14 June 2017 Attended a meeting with Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate re Proposal to expand the EEIS Priority Household Group
- 20 June 2017 Participated in AER Customer Consultative Group teleconference
- 21 June 2017 Attended ActewAGL Energy Consumer Reference Council Meeting #18
- 22-23 June Attended National Consumer Roundtable on Energy, Adelaide

- 27 June 2017 Met with Ian MacAuley (a Care Inc Board Member and Adjunct Lecturer in Public Sector Finance at the University of Canberra and a Fellow at the Centre for Policy Development) who has published articles re the energy market to discuss energy issues.
- 4 July 2017 Submitted Grant Progress report to end May to ECA
- 4 July 2017 ACT Energy Consumers Policy Consortium Meeting
- 11 July 2017 Teleconference Briefing on AEMC's system security work program
- 18 July 2017 Attended AER Customer Consultative Group meeting
- 9 July 2017 Attended ActewAGL Consultations on Priorities for the ACT Electricity Network – The ACTEWAGL Distribution Electricity Network 2019-24 Five Year Plan. Shelley Clarke, member of the ACT Consumer Consultation Group for Energy Matters also attended.
- 26 July 2017 Provided Input to ACOSS letter to Minister Josh Frydenberg, MP
Minister for Environment and Energy
- 26 July 2017 Met with Care Inc. Community Development Officers to discuss energy information to provide to participants in energy workshops.
- 26 July 2017 Participated in ACOSS Climate & Energy Policy Network Meeting teleconference