



## Communique

# WA ACE Forum

*22 February 2022 meeting*

**The ninth meeting of the Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy (WA ACE) Forum was held on 22 February 2022.**

### **Independent Review into Christmas 2021 Power Outages**

Members and the Independent Reviewer discussed how the power outages had impacted the community, options for sharing of network outage information and the adequacy of electricity transmission and distribution network reliability standards.

### **WA ACE Program update**

Members were provided with a Program update, including that the latest WA ACE grant funding round has opened. Members were encouraged to apply for grants and advertise the grants to their networks.

### **Emergency Solar Management update**

Members were provided with an update on the Emergency Solar Management scheme which commenced on 14 February 2022, with requirements applying to new and upgraded rooftop solar energy system installations with an inverter capacity of 5kW or less. Members discussed the feedback that they have received since the scheme came into force and noted that previous Forum input had been incorporated into the design of the scheme.

### **Retailer of last resort scheme**

Members were provided with background information on the intent of a retailer of last resort scheme and discussed some of the potential elements that could form part of a revised local scheme.

### **WA ACE Grant presentation**

Newgate Communications provided an overview of its Energy Consumer Advocacy Training Workshop project, including the aim to develop skills and strategies of participants to better advocate for energy consumers and that the workshop was well received by attendees.

### **Western Power AA5 Process**

Members were advised that Western Power's Access Arrangement 5 (AA5) has been lodged with the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA). Western Power provided further details of related customer and community engagement. Members discussed elements of the AA5 proposal and were encouraged to participate in the ERA's consultation processes to inform the final decision on the proposal.

## Electricity Code Consultative Committee review of the Electricity Small Use Customer Code

Members were advised that the Electricity Code Consultative Committee's consultation on the ERA's draft decision had closed and received an overview of the major changes being considered. Electricity Code Consultative Committee advice will be presented to the ERA and inform its final decision on the Code changes, with the aim of a new Code being gazetted by 30 June 2022.

## Esperance Energy Supply Solution

Members were advised of developments leading to the proposed cessation of supplies to the gas distribution network in Esperance and the recent negotiation by Horizon Power of an extension to existing supply arrangements until 31 March 2023 with State Government support. Members noted that Horizon Power has been tasked by the State Government to develop and deliver an energy transition plan for affected customers with community input.

## WA ACE Program and Expert Consumer Panel update

Members were informed of the activities of the [Expert Consumer Panel](#) (ECP), including providing feedback into the AA5 process and input to the Independent Review into the Christmas 2021 Power Outages.

### About the WA ACE Forum

The WA ACE Forum brings to together consumer representative bodies from across Western Australia to provide consumer insights to the energy sector, supporting informed, valuable contributions to the energy debate in Western Australia. The WA ACE Forum meets five times a year.

The WA ACE Forum is not a decision-making body, nor is it required to form consensus. Accordingly, this Communique does not reflect the views of Energy Policy WA or any particular member organisation, rather it seeks to share the key areas of discussion by the Forum.