Department of Energy and Economic Diversification

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Energy Policy WA

Working together for a brighter energy future.

Communique

WA ACE Forum

21 October 2026 meeting

Meeting 32 of the Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy (WA ACE) Forum was held on 21 October 2026.

Western Power's Sixth Access Arrangement (AA6) with the Economic Regulation Authority

As the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) finalised the framework for Western Power's sixth access arrangement (AA6) in August 2026, Western Power and WA ACE Forum members engaged to discuss what this means for ensuring proposed expenditure is necessary, efficient and delivers benefits to consumers.

Key priorities included keeping network costs affordable, improving reliability, addressing regional network constraints and ensuring investment supports the cleaner energy transition without placing unnecessary costs onto households and small businesses.

As the AA6 is a significant regulatory process for Western Australia's electricity system, it will shape network investment, services and revenue for the South-West Interconnected System (SWIS) for the next regulatory period due to commence in July 2028.

Forum members noted that Western Power's proposal to the ERA is expected in February 2027 with further stakeholder and public consultations to occur in 2027 as part of the process.

Future Energy System Outlook (FESO) 2027

Energy Policy WA (EPWA) is developing a long-term scenario-based study for the SWIS to 2050 that examines how rising electricity demand, population and economic growth, emerging technologies, supply-chain challenges and other imperatives may shape the future electricity system.

Representatives from EPWA provided a presentation to Forum members on this work and discussed how the study will help inform government and industry decisions to support a reliable and affordable energy supply. It was also noted that EPWA is developing FESO 2027 in conjunction with Western Power and the Australian Energy Market Operator.

It was also noted that the draft MISA (Methodology, Inputs, Scenarios and Assumptions) for FESO 2027 was released for public comment closing on 30 October 2026. The public consultation process provided an opportunity for consumer and small business perspectives on future planning inputs.

Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative (SHEPI) Expansion

Forum members were provided a briefing on work by the Western Australian and Australian Governments to expand the Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative (SHEPI) to improve energy efficiency, reduce electricity bills and enhance living conditions for social housing tenants across regional and remote Western Australia.

This update included information as to how the additional $53.9 million Australian Government funding commitment announced in October 2026 will be used to support energy efficiency upgrades in approximately 4,000 additional social housing properties across the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne, Mid-West and Goldfields regions. The upgrades will focus on ceiling insulation to help keep homes cooler in summer and warmer in winter, improving the liveability of social housing tenants and reducing household energy costs.

The expansion builds on the existing $63.2 million WA SEPI program, which is on track to completing upgrades to approximately 4,000 homes in regional and remote areas by June 2027.

Expert Consumer Panel update

The Expert Consumer Panel provided an update of its activities. This included input on the Electricity Small Use Customer Code Review, calling for stronger customer safeguards around hardship, disconnections, life-support needs, extreme-weather reliability, and protections for small businesses.

Other Expert Consumer Panel consultation contributions centred on consumer protections in relation to the new Alternative Electricity Services Code of Practice for Single Property Network Services, and the review of the Benchmark Technology to be used in setting Benchmark Reserve Capacity Prices in the Wholesale Electricity Market and Power System Security and Reliability Standards Review.

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.