



## Communique

# WA ACE Forum

*18 June 2024 meeting*

**Meeting 21 of the Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy (WA ACE) Forum was held on 18 June 2024.**

### **Small Business Energy Communications Research**

Members were provided a briefing on Small Business Energy Communications Research conducted by Energy Consumers Australia. The main findings of the research are that energy savings related communications should have a simple message, and preferably involve actions with low cost and effort. It was also noted that communication material should be standalone, such that consumers should not need to 'find out more' by visiting a website.

### **Introducing PoweringWA**

Members were introduced to the new PoweringWA entity that commenced official operations on 1 July 2024 with a remit is to coordinate across government and with stakeholders to ensure that transmission required for decarbonisation is built without delay. It was noted that PoweringWA is investigating landholder compensation and community sharing options to ensure hosting communities, rather than just the landowner(s), see meaningful benefits from locally based transmission infrastructure developments.

### **Pilbara Energy Transition update**

Energy Policy WA noted that while the initial Pilbara Roundtable included agreement from major industry players in the Pilbara as to the need for common use transmission infrastructure, more recently Roundtable membership has expanded beyond industry players to include Traditional Owner representatives. Energy Policy WA is working with industry and Traditional Owner Groups in the Pilbara to identify the common use transmission corridors and renewable generation required to facilitate decarbonisation of the region, within a framework that recognises the value of the unique cultural heritage of the First Peoples of the Pilbara.

The Commonwealth 'Rewiring the Nation' program will provide availability of up to \$3 billion of concessionary finance (low-interest loans) to assist interested parties to build and connect electricity transmission infrastructure in the Pilbara.

### **Expert Consumer Panel update**

Expert Consumer Panel members provided an overview of recent activities, including:

- Producing three separate submissions in relation to the Alternative Energy Services workstream consultations.
- Providing comments on the Exposure Draft of Wholesale Electricity Market Amending Rules associated with the Demand Side Response Review.
- Providing a response to the Economic Regulation Authority call for issues to consider in an upcoming review of the Code of Conduct for the Supply of Electricity to Small Use Customers.

- Providing a submission on consultation papers for a review of the Reserve Capacity Mechanism and associated rule change processes.

### **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.