



## Communique

# WA ACE Forum

*19 November 2024 meeting*

**Meeting 23 of the Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy (WA ACE) Forum was held on 19 November 2024.**

### **Energy Consumers Australia One Stop Shop update**

Energy Consumers Australia provided Forum members with an update on its One Stop (energy efficiency) Shop proposal, which includes developing a minimum value proposition consisting of artificial intelligence generated advice through a national digital platform, alongside certification of not-for-profit staff based locally to provide direct assistance to households.

### **Economic Regulation Authority's update**

The Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) provided an overview of its final decision on the sixth access arrangement for the ATCO Mid-West and South-West Gas Distribution Systems (AA6) and the first year of operation of family domestic violence related obligations being applied in the electricity and gas sectors.

The AA6 briefing noted the introduction of a new regulated 'permanent disconnection' tariff, that gas network tariffs would increase by 7.8 per cent annually over the next five years and that accelerated depreciation of some assets had been allowed to mitigate future stranded asset risk. Forum attendees suggested that ATCO should bear the full risk of any future network expansions.

The ERA noted that the new family violence obligations for the electricity and gas industries include requirements that retailers publish family violence policies, train staff to identify customers affected by family violence, protect their privacy, and provide a nine-month disconnection moratorium for the customers.

### **Australian Energy Market Operator preparations for summer**

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) provided an overview of preparations for the upcoming 2024-25 summer period for the South West Interconnected System, noting the expected high temperatures and the significant capacity that has been added in the form of new battery storage.

### **Launch of Scenarios for Future Living – RACE for 2030 project**

Race for 2030 outlined that its Scenarios for Future Living project is investigating how Distributed Energy Resources (solar PV, household batteries, electric vehicles, etc) may be used in the future and how this use could impact the electricity grid, to provide an evidence base for future energy sector planning.

### **Expert Consumer Panel update**

The Expert Consumer Panel noted that it had provided a submission to the review of the Code of Conduct for the Supply of Electricity to Small Use Customers.

## 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.