

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

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 Stat Tw 85PJ06.6 (a)1T-2 (i)2.6eg.6 (a)lb (ange)n(e)10.5