



Communique

WA ACE Forum

30 November 2021 meeting

The eighth meeting of the Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy (WA ACE) Forum was held on 30 November 2021.

Energy Transformation Strategy Stage 2

Members were provided with an overview of the work program for Stage 2 of the Energy Transformation Strategy and discussed the relationship to decarbonisation of the electricity and gas sectors.

Emergency solar management

Members were advised of details associated with the requirement for 'emergency solar management' for new and upgraded rooftop solar energy system installations with an inverter capacity of 5kW or less from 14 February 2022. Members discussed methods for communicating with customers about emergency circumstances and incidents, and for valuing the contribution made towards maintaining power for all. Members also noted the implementation of export limits for larger solar energy systems to assist with managing the broader electricity system.

AA5 Customer and Community Engagement

Members were provided with an overview of the outcomes of the customer and community engagement undertaken by Western Power as part of its Access Arrangement 5 (AA5) process. Members highlighted the value of quality communications from the network operator, in addition to the appropriate selection of the communication medium.

Energy Customer Contract Regulations

Final details of updates to the Energy Customer Contract Regulations were shared, which are expected to take effect in mid-2022.

Embedded electricity networks

Members outlined the limited consumer feedback received on conditions experienced in embedded networks. Access to hardship support and ease of access to renewable energy options were highlighted as potential issues.

ETAK Grant presentation

The Energy Transformation Association of the Kimberley shared the outcomes of its WA ACE Grant program, sharing insights in bringing together a regional community to discuss options to increase renewable energy accessibility in small grids.

ETAK has grown its membership through the provision of the grant and operated a successful co-design forum and separate networking event in Broome with more than 100 attendees.

WA ACE Program and Expert Consumer Panel update

Members were informed of the activities of the Expert Consumer Panel (ECP), including providing feedback into Western Power's Tariff Structure Statement in the AA5 process, and into the scope of the Reserve Capacity Mechanism review. Members were also updated on the potential release of the WA ACE Grant round for 2021-22.

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.