



Communique

WA ACE Forum

14 June 2022 meeting

The Eleventh meeting of the Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy (WA ACE) Forum was held on 14 June 2022.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report - Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

Members were provided with an overview of the above report by Professor Lesley Hughes and how climate change is already impacting Australia (in respect to impacts on people, infrastructure and the environment). Professor Hughes posited that the expansion of fossil fuel development is incompatible with targets in the Paris Agreement on climate action.

Project Symphony

Western Power provided members with an overview of Project Symphony and how the trial is integrating rooftop solar, batteries and selected household appliances into a coordinated Virtual Power Plant. Forum members were advised as to how the project can provide greater value for customers and better management of local electricity networks, while allowing for reduced carbon emissions. The project is being delivered by Energy Policy WA, Western Power, Synergy and the Australian Energy Market Operator.

Regulatory Information Notices

The Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) outlined that under the National Gas Law regulators are able to serve gas pipeline service providers with Regulatory Information Notices, allowing for standardised reporting of information on an annual basis.

Whole of System Study 2023

Energy Policy WA provided members with an overview of Wholesale Electricity Market rules requirements that underpin the development of a Whole of System Study. Members were advised that the Whole of System Study model seeks to optimise the mix of existing and new generation and storage capacity to supply low emissions electricity at the least cost and that the modelling will take account of the recently announced coal-fired generation plant retirements along with net zero emissions commitments by 2050.

Reserve Capacity Mechanism review

Energy Policy WA provided Forum members with a summary of the proposed scope of the review of the Reserve Capacity Mechanism arrangements.

The Forum noted that while the Reserve Capacity Mechanism was implemented in the South West Interconnected System in 2005 to ensure sufficient capacity for system reliability, with demand profile changes and the transition to a low emissions energy system characterised by increasing levels of intermittent and distributed generation, a review of these arrangements is considered timely.

WA ACE Program and Expert Consumer Panel update

Members were informed of the activities of the Expert Consumer Panel, including involvement in the review of the cost allocation arrangements for the Wholesale Electricity Market and the Reserve Capacity Mechanism review. Members were advised that the Panel submission in response to the ERA Issues Paper on proposed revisions to the Western Power Network Access Arrangement (2022/23 – 2026/27) was available on the ERA website.

Members were also advised of two vacancies on the Expert Consumer Panel and encouraged to nominate for these positions.

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.