

MEETING NOTES

Consumer Consultative Committee

17 August 11.30am – 1.30pm

Video conference

Welcome, opening comments and apologies

Senior Commissioner Joe Dimasi welcomed the attendees and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Lucy Hohnen (St Vincent De Paul), Ashlee Berry (Master Builders Association) and Peter Jensen (Ratepayers Association),

Attendees

Glenys Patulny (Combined Community Councils of the ACT), Graeme Neate (ACAT), Antony Allen (St Vincent De Paul), Emma Campbell (ACT Council of Social Services Inc.), Craig Shannon (Clubs ACT), Annette Weier (ICRC) Ryan Ostopowicz (ICRC), Chris Adkins (ICRC), Lachlan Phillips (ICRC), Manish Agarwal (ICRC), Irina Umback (ICRC), Haidi Hong (ICRC), Taehyun Ryu (ICRC), and Alison Rowe (ICRC)

Retail Electricity (Transparency and Comparability) Code Update

Chris Adkins gave an update on the Code released in October 2021. He also informed the committee that we varied the Code in June to remove the better bills obligations after the AER released its Better Bills Guideline to avoid duplication, confusion and additional costs to retailers.

Ryan Ostopowicz provided a brief preview of the YourSay survey conducted in May 2022. A full version of the survey is available on the ICRC website - <https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/energy/act-retail-electricity-transparency-and-comparability-code>

Water and sewerage price investigation

Irina Umback and Manish Agarwal presented on the price investigation, including the operating and capital expenditures and prices proposed by Icon Water, and outlined the timeline for the investigation. They encouraged members to contact us with any questions about Icon Water's pricing proposal or our draft report that is due to be released in October, and to make submissions to us on the draft report.

Emma Campbell asked for the best contact from ICRC to discuss queries. Irina Umback informed her she would coordinate answers to questions and organise a meeting if required.

Glenys Patulny asked why Icon Water can only access 27% of water from the Cotter Dam. Irina Umback explained the pumps at the Cotter pumping station are old and have a high failure rate, which limits their pumping capacity.

Antony Allen questioned whether Icon Water was double dipping on the capital costs of existing infrastructure like the Cotter pumping station. Senior Commissioner Joe Dimasi explained that Icon

Water has spent the funds allocated in the past for capital assets that are fully depreciated and our focus will be ensuring that new funding will be provided only for capital projects that are prudent and efficient so they are the lowest cost possible.

Senior Commissioner Dimasi encouraged all members to put in submissions after the draft report is released in October.

Work in Progress

A summary of current and upcoming projects was circulated prior to the meeting.

Manish Agarwal provided a more in-depth discussion on some of the projects from the work in progress paper.

Emma Campbell thanked the ICRC staff for taking the time to discuss issues with her in depth. She mentioned having access to the ICRC and the CCC meetings are beneficial.

The ICRC Strategic plan for 2022-2023 was also circulated to the committee prior to the meeting.

Date of next meeting and any other business

Emma Campbell noted that ACTCOSS is interested in the implications for consumers of the ACT transition from gas to electricity. Senior Commissioner Dimasi noted that the ICRC does not have a regulatory role for gas pricing but staff may be able to assist with specific questions.

Joe encouraged committee members to send through any agenda items they would like to discuss at the next meeting.

Date for next meeting to be confirmed.

Meeting closed 12.40pm