

ICRC Consumer Consultative Committee

12 June 2019 1.00-3:00pm
Level 1, 221 London Circuit, Canberra

Attendees

Graeme Neate	ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal	Barnie van Wyk	St Vincent de Paul Society - By Phone
Susan Helyar	ACT Council of Social Services Inc.	Deb Phippen	Tenants' Union ACT
Michael Schaper	Canberra Business Chamber	Joe Dimasi	ICRC
Gwynn Rees	ClubsACT	Annette Weier	ICRC
Fiona Carrick	Combined Community Councils of the ACT	Patrick Hamshere	ICRC
Helen Oakey	Conservation Council	Ian Phillips	ICRC
Michael Hopkins	Master Builders Association of the ACT	Cath Collins	ICRC

Apologies

Peter Jansen	Rate Payers Association	Adina Cirson	Property Council of Australia (ACT)
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Meeting notes

Welcome, opening comments and introductions

Senior Commissioner Dimasi opened the meeting and welcomed members. There was a general discussion on how the committee will operate and feedback was sought from members. Feedback from members included:

1. Keep meeting to 2 hours maximum
2. Provide opportunity to members to provide input into the agenda
3. Host meeting over lunch, or close to lunch, due to members' other commitments

Petrol Price Inquiry – update

Patrick Hamshere provided an overview of the Petrol Price Inquiry and the draft findings in the Commission's draft report. Details of the Commission's work on the Petrol Price Inquiry can be found here: <https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/industry-references/petrol-price-inquiry>

A member asked whether the Commission was able to investigate any matters referred to it, and Commissioner Dimasi provided an overview of the Commission's functions and funding arrangements. He noted that formal terms of reference from Government are generally required for the Commission to undertake investigations.

2019 Retail Electricity Price reset

Patrick Hamshere provided an overview of the annual update to electricity prices for small customers that was released on 7 June 2019. This update is made under the 2017–20 retail electricity price direction. Details of the price update and the 2017–2020 price direction can be found here: <https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/energy/electricity/retail-electricity-prices-2017-20>

Electricity Price Model & Methodology Review & future price determination

Patrick Hamshere provided an overview of the electricity price model and methodology review that was recently completed and briefly outlined the terms of reference the Commission has received for the next price determination period (2020–24).

Details of the model and methodology review final decision can be found here:

<https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/energy/electricity/electricity-model-and-methodology-review-2018-19>

Details of the retail electricity price investigation for 2020–24 can be found here:

<https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/energy/electricity/retail-electricity-prices-2020-24>

Utility Licence monitoring – annual report

Ian Phillips provided an overview of the key findings from 2017–18 monitoring report of utility compliance against their licence conditions. Ian explained that retailers are not covered in the report as they are monitored by the Australian Energy Regulator.

More information on the Utility Licence Annual report monitoring can be found here:

<https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/utilities-licensing/utility-licence-annual-reports>

Consumer Protection Code review

Cath Collins provided an outline of the Consumer Protection Code review, the issues paper and indicative timeline for the draft report and new code implementation.

A member highlighted the importance of ensuring representation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in consultation on the Code. The Commission will ensure that the Canberra Business Chamber is included in the stakeholder list and welcomes any comments or feedback from SMEs on the Code.

More information on the review can be found here: <https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/projects/current-projects/consumer-protection-code-review>

ICRC Work in Progress

The summary of current and upcoming projects was circulated prior to meeting and noted by attendees.

Michael Hopkins commented favourably on the Capital Contribution Code consultation and transition period and noted that his members appreciated the transition period allowed by the Commission.

Next meeting

Wednesday 13 November 2019 (tentative)
