**ICRC Consumer Consultative Committee**

4 November 2019 1.00-2:00pm
Level 1, Darling Room, 221 London Circuit, Canberra

**Meeting notes**

|  |
| --- |
| Retail Electricity Price investigation Patrick Hamshere (ICRC) provided an overview of the electricity price investigation for the period 2020–24, including the terms of reference, the process that will be followed, anticipated timing for the draft report (February 2020) and final determination (June 2020). There were general discussions amongst members regarding discounting practices, transparency of offers, and consumer engagement. Fiona Carrick (Combined Community Councils ACT) offered that community council meetings may provide an opportunity for the Commission to engage community members.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> |
| Consumer Protection Code: Draft Report and Draft CodeCath Collins (ICRC) provided an overview of the Draft decisions made on the Consumer Protection Code review. Submissions on the draft report closed on 25 October 2019 and submissions received on the draft report have been generally supportive.The Commission is working towards releasing the final report and Code before the end of the year. The new Code will come into effect from 1 July 2020.There was general discussion regarding the Code, its application to energy retailers and the draft decisions. ACTCOSS noted that the consultation process undertaken by the Commission had been positive.More information on the review can be found here: <https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/projects/current-projects/consumer-protection-code-review>  |
| Recently completed inquiries: Petrol Price InquiryPatrick Hamshere (ICRC) provided an overview of the Petrol Price Inquiry and the findings in the Commission’s 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>  |
| Recently completed inquiries: Container Deposit SchemePatrick Hamshere (ICRC) provided an overview of the Container Deposit Scheme monitoring final report including the Commission’s recommendations. The Commission found no specific evidence of uncompetitive supplier behaviour following the introduction of the scheme and found that beverage prices had increased in line with scheme costs. The Commission made recommendations to improve the scheme, including: (a) to harmonise the CDS with other jurisdictions, particularly the NSW scheme, (b) to reduce administrative burden for small suppliers, and (c) that guidance be provided to beverage suppliers regarding new products and their compatibility with the government’s objective of reducing litter.Details of the Commission’s work on the Container Deposit Scheme can be found here: <https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/projects/completed-projects/non-regulated-industry-reviews/container-deposit-scheme>  |
| ICRC Work in ProgressThe summary of current and upcoming projects was circulated prior to meeting and noted by attendees.  |
| Other businessCapital Contribution Charge - A member requested information regarding review of the Capital Contribution Code precinct charge value, now that the transition period has expired. Commission staff advised that the map and precinct charge was reviewed annually as part of the price reset. The latest precinct charge review information can be found in the 2019-20 price report: <https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/water-and-sewerage/regulated-water-and-sewerage-services-prices-201823>Current map information can be found here: <https://www.icrc.act.gov.au/water-and-sewerage/water-and-sewerage-capital-contribution-code>Material for circulation – There was a general discussion regarding information from the meeting that is suitable for circulating or dissemination to members. Members felt this would assist in the Committee being a conduit in public consultation. Members highlighted that the material should remain concise and link people to where they could gain more information. The Commission will provide notes from the meeting that will be publicly available and will update the Work in Progress report to include key dates and upcoming forums. ACTCOSS – Susan Hellier noted that she will be leaving ACTCOSS and that a new person will be in her role for the next meeting. Members wished Susan all the best in her new role. Susan suggested that the Commission may wish to consider additional members with a Consumer Law background if the Committee composition changes in the future. |
| Next meetingWednesday 24 March 2020, 1pm (tentative) |