

Energy Consumers' Council

SACOSS Representative: Tom Stead (proxy for Karen Grogan)

The Energy Consumers' Council (ECC) was formed as part of an election commitment of the current Government in 2002 in order to advise the Minister for Energy on issues of importance to energy consumers. Comprised of representatives of a diverse range of not-for-profit organisations, the ECC meets on a monthly basis and has two sub-committees which meet on an ad-hoc basis. The role of the ECC is to:

- Provide advice to the Minister on issues around energy price and reliability
- Report on energy prices in SA and other jurisdictions and the factors affecting prices
- Report on the performance of privatised electricity utilities from the perspective of consumers
- Provide advice to the Minister as directed
- Refer matters to the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) or the Energy Industry Ombudsman (EIO) as appropriate

The ECC is a valuable way in which SACOSS engages with the issues around electricity within a framework of diverse consumer views.

Over the last 12 months, the ECC has discussed issues such as:

- Electricity pricing and its implications for consumers
- The Memorandum of Understanding between energy retailers, the Minister and consumers
- The National Energy Customer Framework (NECF)
- Landlord/Tenant energy issues
- The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) review of retail competition in SA
- Energy Hardship issues
- Wind generation
- Consumer law reform

SACOSS will continue with its representation on the ECC in the coming year, with a particular focus on emerging National Energy Market (NEM) issues, including the impact of climate change policies, smart metering developments, alternative energy generation and various policy reviews as they emerge.