

Minutes

Retail Market Review – Stakeholder Reference Group Meeting #13

Date and Time: Tuesday 16 April 2019, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Location: Brussels Room, Dialogue Conference Centre, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Present:

Name	Organisation
Nick Leys	AEC
David Markham	AEC
Elizabeth Molyneux	AGL
David Bryant	Brotherhood of St Laurence
Jake Lilley	CALC
Sarah Shepherd	DEWLP (observer)
Paul Buczma	DEWLP (observer)
Aaron Yuen	ESC
Sugi Sivarajan	ESC
Dean Wickenton	ESC
Katherine Harris	ESC
Zac Gillam	EWOV
Phil Gardiner	Onsite Energy Solutions
Michael Benveniste	Powershop
Stefanie Macri	Red Energy
Gavin Duffy	St Vincent de Paul
Emma O'Neill	VCOSS

Apologies:

- Larissa Nicholls – Centre for Urban Research – RMIT
- AER (observer)
- DHHS (observer)

Agenda items

1.1. Welcome and general update

- We are currently focused on preparing our final advice to the Victorian government on the Victorian Default Offer (VDO) and technical final decision on the new Victorian energy fact sheet.

1.1.1. Victorian Default Offer (VDO)

- The commission provided an update on the VDO. We received nearly 30 submissions on our draft advice to the Victorian government on the VDO. Public submissions are available on our website.
- We are on track to submit our final advice to the Victorian government by 3 May. This will be released publically at a later date at the government's discretion.

Questions/comments from stakeholders

- A retailer asked about the process for determining the VDO methodology that will apply from 1 January 2020. We will consider our approach after we have submitted our final advice on the VDO to the government, and the nature of the pricing order issued by government.
- A consumer representative questioned how the ESC will be monitoring consumer outcomes following the new rules taking effect 1 July 2019. We noted that there are existing regulatory tools that the commission has available to do this, including auditing and public reporting.

1.2. Bills & marketing

1.2.1. Updates on recommendation 3

- We received 8 submissions on our technical draft decision about the Victorian energy fact sheet, all from retailers. We are considering responses and are on track to publish a final decision in May.
- DELWP held a workshop with Victorian Retailer Portal users on 15 April to discuss operational changes to the portal to give effect to the new fact sheet. DELWP are confident that these changes will be made in time for the 1 July 2019 implementation date. They expect a sandpit version of the portal website to be available for retailers to test from May.
- A retailer questioned whether we will publish a tracked change version of the code with all changes taking effect from 1 July 2019, when we publish the technical final decision. We will consider the clearest way of presenting the new version of the code with all the Retail Market Review changes.

1.3. Clear and fair contracts

1.3.1. Updates on recommendations 3A and 4

- Following discussion at last month's reference group we are considering matters relating to recommendations 3A and 4. We will start our processes on these recommendations following the conclusion of the technical final decision on the Victorian energy fact sheet.
- We are mindful of ensuring sufficient time to consult stakeholders and for retailers to implement changes before the 1 July 2020 implementation date.

1.4. Any other business

- There are potential clashes between future reference group dates and another forum that some members attend every quarter. We will endeavour to reschedule the relevant reference group meetings to avoid this clash.
- Members discussed upcoming changes to utility relief grants, which are also due to take effect from 1 July.

Appendix A – Agenda

No.	Item	Presenter	Duration
1	Welcome & general update	Aaron Yuen (Chair)	5
2	Victorian Default Offer (VDO)		
	• Update	Dean Wickenton (SRM)	5
	• Stakeholder submissions to draft advice	Dean Wickenton (SRM)	10
	• Any other business	Members	10
3	Bills & marketing		
	• Update	Sugi Sivarajan (PM)	5
	• Stakeholder submissions to recommendation 3 technical consultation	Sugi Sivarajan (PM)	10
	• Any other business	Members	10
4	Clear & fair contracts		
	• Update	Aaron Yuen (Chair)	5
5	Other		
	• Change of meeting dates due to potential clashes with some member's commitments	Aaron Yuen (Chair)	10
	• Any other business	All	10