

Your local voice



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PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 29 JUNE 2022

MINUTES

See also video of meeting, live streamed and uploaded to WCCC Facebook page

COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Gemmell (Chair), Michelle Weston, Mark Boast, Michelle Bourdet, Liam Foley, Louise Hughes, Diana Terry

COMMITTEE APOLOGIES: Lesley Pattinson

MLAS IN ATTENDANCE: Emma Davidson MLA, Ed Cocks MLA

APOLOGIES: Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

Meeting opened: 7:34 pm. 8 signed in attendance plus guest and WCCC committee members. Unique Facebook 244 views of meeting video (as of 18 July 2022).

MEETING: Welcome to members and guests. Chair, Bill Gemmell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We are honoured to be meeting on the ancestral lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We acknowledge these First Australians as the traditional custodians of this land, whose cultures are among the oldest living in human history. We pay respect to the Elders of the communities in the Murrumbidgee region and extend our recognition to their descendants – past, present, and future

7:37 pm PRESENTATION and Q&A:

Peter Billing, General Manager and Derrin Limbrick, Strategic Account Manager from Evo Energy. Providing an overview of how the ACT household sector was unaffected during the recent energy shortfalls.

See also power-point presentation.

Presentation points:

Derrin Limbrick, Strategic Account Manager from Evo Energy

- Evo Energy manages the electricity and gas network in the ACT
- Outlined the supply chain – generation, transmission lines, distribution lines, retailer, and your bill
- Evo Energy is the distribution provider in the ACT

Peter Billing, General Manager, General Manager

- What is going on in the energy market was outlined
- National Electricity Market (NEM). Over the last few weeks there was high demand and a lack of generation source
- Rotational load shedding can control the supply but has not been needed in the ACT

- Lack of reserve. ACT didn't have to do any load shedding, but Evo Energy was ready to take action if needed
- A typical ACT residential bill has a number of components. This includes jurisdictional costs, retail costs, and wholesale energy purchase cost
- Transmission costs have gone up 6%, Distribution costs have gone down 5%, jurisdictional costs have gone down 12%, schemes have risen 3.5%. Metering costs are moved by CPI
- A draft plan for the future network is being developed

Sample questions and comments from the audience:

- Question as to why there has been an electricity issue recently but wasn't an issue when everyone was home during lock down

A: Unusual demand for that time of year but the critical piece was the amount of supply. It was a generation, lack of reserve issue

- What is the percentage of residential and commercial usage?

A: ACT well planned with residential and commercial mostly separate with dedicated lines

- What happens when you lose a load, example a smelter

Biggest energy user is the government. Usually, a smelter is a direct purchaser with generators, so they self-manage. ICON Water volunteered to reduce use

- Is there enough infrastructure with the new developments, particularly with the gas free and electric heating focus of the government?

A: At an ACT level- if every house was converted to electricity - at a market level it would not be noticed

- With the interest in EV cars, is the grid going to cope?

A: Evo Energy did an options modelling exercise in 2021. Two options identified. 1. 100% electricity 2. Convert to green gas. The ACT is well placed

- Costs of infrastructure, example, poles and power lines and underground power. Is there thinking around converting the older houses to underground power lines?

A: In general terms, underground power is x3 more expensive than overhead power. Can be moved but at the house owner's cost

- Is there a cost to change from single phase to 3 phase power?

A: New subdivisions have 3 phase. If the assets have to be upgraded, there will be additional costs

8:45 pm PRESENTATION and Q&A: See also power-point presentation.

Discussion of experiences with both new and older Canberra housing led by:

- **Jodie Pipkorn, sustainability architect and**
- **Paul Nagle, experienced NatHERS (Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme), assessor and sustainability consultant**

Presentation points:

- Presentation on how to achieve low energy homes, that are more comfortable to live in and cheaper to run
- Tours of the sustainable houses are starting up in August
- Improve your home's thermal shell with the house orientation, thermal mass on floors and walls and zoning with doors

- The thermal shell can be improved with double glazed windows, insulation and sealing the home, pelmets and heavy curtains or cellular blinds
- Install and use energy efficient appliances
- Efficiency of indoor wood fires compared to electric heating. Wood fires are 91% efficient, however air conditioners are 472% efficient
- You can visit an energy efficient home from 13 August. See: www.commonsss.com.au/demonstration-home
- Contact: admin@commonsss.com.au
- www.seachange.org.au is a useful site and you can look up do monthly tours

Sample questions and comments from the audience:

- Choices for lighting in the home. Down lights may cause a gap and shouldn't be covered with insulation
- All areas were of high interest to the audience, particularly the benefits and efficiency to the household of insulation, appliances, and design
- Location of air conditioners and heat pump hot water systems are important as they can be a bit noisy due to the anti-freeze function. Advice given to not put near bedroom windows
- Comparison to off peak water systems and heat pump systems.
 - Gas systems efficient at approximately 92%. Electric 100% and 394% heat pump hot water

GENERAL MEETING: Chair, Bill Gemmell

- Minutes of the meeting of May 2022
Moved: Rosemary Drabsch Seconded: Mark Boast Accepted: Yes.
- Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of May 2022: none

8:23 pm MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs

Ed Cocks MLA

Introduced himself and said it was important to him to get to as many community meetings as he can. Previously Ed was a public servant.
His door is always open, and he is happy to take questions.

Emma Davidson MLA

Preliminary investigations have been published about the Western Edge area bordering on Weston Creek. Important to have conversation about this area and maintain bush capital status.
Census data was released this week. Encouraged people to read these reports.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Chair report/newsletter: Copies available at the public meeting and have been emailed out to those on the mailing list. Points include:

- Western Edge investigation reports are of great concern
- Council has completed its analysis of the draft ACT Planning Bill and lodged a submission

with their concerns, particularly in the areas of governance and probity. Thank you to the community for their contributions, it was very much a collaborative effort

- Toilets at Fetherston Gardens are needed for the volunteers and visitors

HAVE YOUR SAY FROM THE FLOOR

Questions were raised about:

- LDK development boundary is within Weston Creek. Concerns include traffic congestion, run off to the river corridor, and light pollution. Residents also concerned about lack of consultation on this development
- Western Edge Investigation has released 8 reports. Resident concerns include the urban sprawl, fire risk, development near the river corridor, and possible rezoning of green areas

CLOSE OF MEETING: 9:32 pm Chair thanked everyone for their participation.

Next WCCC Public Meeting: Wednesday JULY 2022

VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre

Minister Chris Steel

Providing a Weston Creek update from his portfolio perspective.

If you have any questions for Minister Steel, just let us know.