

PACCC MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday 17 March 2009

CitiPower and Powercor Boardroom, Melbourne

ATTENDEES: Shane Breheny – CEO CitiPower and Powercor (Chair)
Brian Sullivan - GM Human Resources & Corporate Affairs
Garry Audley - GM Electricity Networks
John Pye - Victorian Farmers Federation
Rob Lorenzon – Australian Industry Group
Christine May - Rural representative
Peter Brown – City of Moreland
John Mifsud – Manager Business Strategy
Phil Gardner – Manager Energy Metering Solutions – AMI
Hugo Armstrong – Corporate Affairs Manager (Committee Secretary)
Emma Williams – CA Administrative & Events Officer

PRESENTERS: Phil Gardiner- Manager Energy Metering Solutions – AMI
Hugo Armstrong - Corporate Affairs Manager

APOLOGIES: Gavin Dufty - St Vincent De Paul

The 'Planting Trees Near Powerlines' guide has been distributed to the Victorian Nursery Association and subsequently to associated distribution lists.

A link to the Government's 'Your Choice' program has been added to the corporate website.

A significant proportion of the meeting was devoted to discussing the recent major events of a heat wave and bushfires. There was general discussion on early warning systems and public concern about getting up to date information during natural disasters such as bushfires. It was noted there is a perception among some people that wooden cross arms can contribute to causing fires. The committee heard the business had replaced many wooden arms with steel ones but the primary issue with cross arms was one of reliability rather than the likelihood of a groundfire starting.

A presentation was tabled providing an update of the AMI Smart Metering Project. Committee members questioned the cost each customer would accrue and Garry Audley advised costs and charges had not been fully determined, but would be recovered through an annual charge over several years. The changeover from the old metering system to the new one would not require appointments with individuals at home. Customers most affected by the changeover would get the chance to arrange a convenient changeover. In response to a question about the prevalence of asbestos during changeovers, the committee heard the business was preparing for a five per cent incidence rate. Detailed mitigation and management practices have been developed.

A presentation was tabled outlining proposed communications with customers during the AMI roll out.

Some general discussion took place on the difficulty of getting registered electrical contractors in rural areas and it was noted that liaison with this key stakeholder group was needed before the AMI roll out.

The Business Performance Report was tabled.