

PACCC MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday 14 December 2010

CitiPower and Powercor Boardroom, Melbourne

- ATTENDEES:** Brian Sullivan - General Manager HR&CA (in the Chair)
Gavin Dufty – St Vincent De Paul
Robert Lorenzon – Australian Industry Group
Christine May - Rural representative
Brendan Bloore – General Manager Customer Services
John Mifsud – Acting General Manager Electricity Networks
Phil Gardiner – Manager Energy Metering Solutions – AMI (part mtg only)
Matthew Serpell – Manager Network Pricing – Regulation (part mtg only)
Vince Power – Manager Network Asset Management
Hugo Armstrong – Corporate Affairs Manager (Committee Secretary)
Tegan Ricketts – CA Administrative & Events Officer (Minute Secretary)
- PRESENTERS:** Vince Power – Manager Network Asset Management
Matthew Serpell – Manager Network Pricing
John Mifsud - Acting General Manager Electricity Networks
- APOLOGIES:** Shane Breheny - CEO CitiPower and Powercor
John Pye - Victorian Farmers Federation
Peter Brown – City of Moreland
Garry Audley – General Manager Electricity Networks

A paper on the **Bushfire Safety Task Force** was presented and the meeting was advised that an interim report is due by the end of January 2011, with the final report due by the end of June 2011. Committee members highlighted the cost of the recommendations as the main concern in rural communities but it was noted this task force was focused on electricity issues with other bodies looking at the wider issues. Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) is supervising these trials. Christine May advised she is a member of the Task Force's stakeholder reference group.

A presentation on the final determination of the **2011-2015 Electricity Price Review** was tabled. Committee members noted the Government's focus on cost allocation across tariffs. They also commented on cross subsidies for energy efficiency schemes and said the Government should be made aware of the ramifications of these schemes. It was noted electricity retailers normally bundle the Network use of Service Tariff in with other costs on customer electricity bills, but there were calls for it to be listed as a line item on electricity bills. Electricity products were also discussed with some members expressing concern over various 'energy watch' products. Members noted that shopping around for better electricity deals was worthwhile, with some customers achieving benefits of up to 30 per cent. Many commercial and industrial customers are also getting good price deals at present. Committee members were advised that consideration would be given to the introduction of a KVA tariff. During the price review discussion it was also reported that Government will fund T5 environmental street light replacement costs.

The committee was given an update on the **AMI Smart Metering Project**. There was discussion on defects found by smart meter installers at customer premises and it was noted that some Distribution Businesses are absorbing the costs of rectifying them. CitiPower and Powercor has received a number of compliments from customers who were happy the business has identified defects at their premises. Committee members asked about fault ratios for new meters and were advised CitiPower and Powercor's rate is around 0.1 per cent.

Reliability statistics were discussed during an update on **Business Performance**. CitiPower's reliability data is 20 minutes better than last year and Powercor performance is 100 minutes better for the same period.