



Communique

WA ACE Forum

31 March 2026 meeting

Meeting 29 of the Western Australian Advocacy for Consumers of Energy (WA ACE) Forum was held on 31 March 2026.

State Electric Vehicle Strategy – Progress Update

The Forum received an update from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on progress under the State Electric Vehicle Strategy. The update covered electric vehicle uptake in Western Australia, electrification of public transport and government fleets, and initiatives underway to support electricity network integration and charging infrastructure. Emerging policy considerations discussed included improving access to charging for households without off-street parking and broader consumer information for the use of public charging facilities.

Horizon Power response to the Right to Power Report

Horizon Power outlined its initial response to the Original Power *Right to Power* report. Horizon Power advised that it is working with Original Power to consider how the report's findings can inform product and service design, particularly for prepayment customers in remote communities. Early work is focused on understanding customer priorities, improving existing arrangements, and considering how hardship may be more appropriately identified.

WA Residential Energy Efficiency Compliance under the National Construction Code

The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety provided the Forum with a briefing on residential energy efficiency compliance in Western Australia under the National Construction Code. The update outlined the current design-based compliance framework and outlined how amendments to the Code have increased use of Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme assessments.

Target Five and cost of living pressures for people with a disability

The Forum received a briefing from People With disabilities WA on its Target Five initiative. This initiative aims to increase employment of people with disability in the Western Australian public sector. The discussion also highlighted the impacts of cost-of-living pressures, including energy and fuel costs, on people with a disability.

Western Power – Connection Process Improvements

Western Power discussed recent electricity network connection activity and process improvements. The update noted several initiatives aimed at reducing the timeframes for completing new connections, included a streamlined assessment processes for certain developments, with further improvements being planned.

Expert Consumer Panel update

The Expert Consumer Panel provided an update on key activities since the November 2025 Forum meeting, including Panel responses to the following consultations:

- Draft 2026 Determination of Benchmark Reserve Capacity Prices to apply to the 2028-29 capacity year
- Benchmark Reserve Capacity Price – Procedure Change Proposal.
- Essential System Services Framework Review
- Supplementary Reserve Capacity rule change proposal RC_2025_01
- Western Power's 2027–2032 Access Arrangement Framework and Approach
- Review of AEMO Governance Arrangements

About the WA ACE Forum

The WA ACE Forum brings to together consumer representative bodies from across Western Australia to provide consumer insights to the energy sector, supporting informed, valuable contributions to the energy debate in Western Australia. The WA ACE Forum meets five times a year.

The WA ACE Forum is not a decision-making body, nor is it required to form consensus. Accordingly, this Communique does not reflect the views of Energy Policy WA or any particular member organisation, rather it seeks to share the key areas of discussion by the Forum.