Minutes

Reset Advisory Group

Meeting 1

Meeting Details

Organiser	Alex Lewis
Date	Thursday 12 March 2026
Time	10.00pm – 1.00pm
Location	Cremorne Hotel

Members

Chris Marsden, Chair
Matt Curnow (RAG Rep on CAF)
Adam Davidson (Deputy - RAG)
Georgie Morris
Mike Leane
Pawan Verma
Jason Huang
Cathi Buttfield

SA Power Networks (SAPN)
Jessica Morris, Chief Customer & Strategy Officer
Alex Lewis, Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Kylie Lush, Minute Secretary
Richard Sibly, Head of Regulation
Megan Grey, Head of Communications & Engagement

Guests/Presenters
Rebecca Carter, Policy & Advocacy Lead

1. **Recurring Ordinary Items**

1.1. Welcome and acknowledgement of country
Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

1.2. Present & Apologies – Apologies from Georgie Morris, Pawan Verma, Jason Huang, Helen White and Kylie Lush were noted.

1.3. Previous minutes & Actions - Minutes from the previous meeting were circulated to members and accepted as an accurate representation of the meeting.

1.4. CAF Update
- Andrew Nance chaired his final meeting as CAF Chair. He has recently joined the Department of Energy and Mining in the role of Director of Planning and Forecasting. Members expressed gratitude for his contributions and noted the possibility of future collaboration in his new role.
- Insulator Pollution was discussed, particularly the impact on reliability during widespread events. SA Power Networks washing program is targeting high-risk areas near the coastline. Recent heavy rainfall has reduced the number of pollution-related incidents and alleviated some of the issue.
– Presentation on Network Planning from Fraser Hampton.

2. **Analysis of forecast quantity v actual quantities**

Richard provided an update on forecasting and estimated volumes.

- Historical analysis of forecasted vs actual electricity volumes showed variations due to factors such as weather, COVID-19 impacts and price elasticity.
- For 2024-25, forecasting accuracy was approximately 98%, with a 2% error rate.
- Factors influencing discrepancies included mild weather, changes in consumer behaviours and the impact of the Commonwealth Home Battery Scheme.

- Over-recovery and under-recovery mechanisms were explained, with adjustments made to align revenue with actual volumes.
- Transmission charges are passed through, with monthly reconciliation processes ensuring accuracy.

2.1 2026-27 Draft Annual Pricing Proposal

- Richard discussed the projected network charges that are estimated to increase by an average of 11% from 1 July 2026.
- A breakdown of the increase consists of distribution charges 7%, transmission charges 26%, largely driven by the South Australian Government's new firming scheme, and government schemes – there was a slight reduction due to declining PV feed-in-tariff costs.
- Total network charges will comprise approximately 42% of the average residential bill with SAPN distribution charges being 28% of the bill.
- Export tariffs netted $3.7m for the first 8 months of this financial year

Discussion:

- SA Power Networks will release clear and factual media statements regarding price increases, supported by infographics to explain contributing factors.
- Collaboration with ElectraNet and government agencies will ensure transparency in communications.
- SA Power Networks will submit final pricing to the AER by the end of March, incorporating updated transmission prices and additional actual sales data.
- How will SAPN manage the comms around the increased transmission costs? Cathi is happy to help amplify this message.
- DMO – SA Business Chamber is pushing for the small business rate to match the residential rate of 6%, reducing it from 11%.
- Why are residential transmission costs at 32% given the FERM will support industry but is largely falling on residential customers.
- Costs are feeding into the further divide between the 'have's and the have not's'.

2.2 Engagement framework - Financials on expenditure

Richard presented on capex and opex.

- 2020-25 Capex was 4% under allowance and is on target for 2025-26.
- 2020-25 Opex was 5% under allowance and is on target for 2025-26.
- Customer connections and residential development is seeing significant growth.
- SAPN is penalised for over-spending opex.
- AER benchmarking – SAPN dropped from 4th to 8th in DNSP efficiency, largely a result of the change in the AER's methodology, which doesn't account for SA's lower customer base. In addition, the methodology doesn't allow for 2-way flow which is important in the SA context.

3. Reset Review on Engagement 2020-2025

- Members discussed the importance of clarifying the role of advisory groups in the reset process.
- Concerns were raised about the limited role of the Reset Advisory Group in influencing the revenue proposal's content as it was limited to the engagement process. It was noted that during some of the process, Reset members did raise issues regarding the revenue proposal.
- Members suggested that future reset groups should have a more active role in shaping the proposal, rather than just commenting on the engagement process.
- It was suggested that SA Power Networks could provide a clearer breakdown of the costs and benefits of engagement activities, including comparisons with other DNSPs.
- The importance of regional engagement was highlighted, with members advocating for more frequent and meaningful interactions with regional communities.

- Members expressed disappointment at the lack of collaboration with other networks during the reset process despite engagement with Energy Consumers Australia since March 2025. SA Power Networks is committed to exploring opportunities for joint engagement with other networks' consumer panels, particularly in the lead-up to the next reset.
- Opportunity for greater co-design of our engagement program with other DNSPs and seeking input on our program.
- The status of ECA's proposed Reset Reference Group.

4. Consultative Group Review

Alex provided an update on the proposed new structure which comprises of a Community Advisory Forum, Reset Subcommittee, three strategic advisory groups and two operational working groups.

- It's proposed the CAF (12-14 members) will report to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and meet quarterly.
- Deputy CAF chair to chair the Reset Subcommittee (6-8 members of CAF)
- Chairs of the strategic advisory groups will sit on the CAF and provide quarterly updates.

Discussion:

- Rather than a Reset Sub-committee of CAF, that reports to the CAF, a separate Reset Advisory Group could provide a greater pool of people for this group. This could help ensure greater diversity and fresh perspectives and reduce the time commitment for CAF members.
- Alex advised that it is proposed that initial consumer engagement for the next reset period will commence in 2027, so the new Reset group will be discussing the engagement process in late 2026.
- Desire for a joint Electranet CAP/ SANN CAF meeting – perhaps following the commencement of the RIT-T process for the Leigh Creek to Davenport line.
- Refresh membership and include some informed advocates. Chris encouraged all current members to reapply during the EOI process
- There was some discussion about engagement with electricity retailers though noting previous difficulties given the commercial sensitivities of retailers.

5. Advocacy Framework

Bec provided an update on the Advocacy Framework which ensures SA Power Networks advocacy efforts are aligned, consistent and impactful. It provides a clear structure for responding to regulatory changes, supporting customers and influencing energy policy.

- Provides a structured system for delivering effective advocacy aligned with SAPN's strategic goals.
- Ensures alignment, visibility, and governance of advocacy efforts across the business.
- Equips employees with clear, consistent, and memorable advocacy positions to use in external engagements.
- The advocacy committee meet monthly to prioritise issues, triage new activities, and assign subject matter experts (SMEs) for submissions or emergent issues.
- Some example topics of the advocacy work is Reliable and Efficient Energy Markets, Energy Equity and Affordability and Efficient Electrification and Growth.
- Collaboration with advisory groups and external stakeholders is critical to the success of the framework.
- Alex and Bec to discuss how to engage with groups and CAF as part of the new model.

6. Other Business

- Chris thanked members and expressed gratitude for their contributions. He also thanked SAPN Executives for the time commitment and participation and Alex and Kylie for their support to him as chair for the past two years. Everyone was encouraged to participate in the upcoming expressions of interest for the new advisory group structure.

- It was noted that the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) is holding a meeting for the Electricity Development Plan Reference Group and that a representative from SA Power Networks, likely Fraser Hampton, would attend the meeting.
- Cathi B has taken Andrew's role as the SA representative on the ECA Consumer group.

Actions Arising	**Who**	**Status**
Alex and Bec to discuss how to engage with groups and CAF as part of the new model.	Alex	In progress
All members to be send EOI form once finalised.	Kylie	In progress

Meeting closed at 1.00pm