

## Session 12 9 December 2025

### Session purpose

- Recap session 11
- Provide a briefing about Australian Energy Regulator (AER) draft decision.
- Consider the key areas of accelerated depreciation and Tarriff Variation Mechanism and seek additional feedback from the Community Forum.
- Gather final consumer input to inform Evoenergy's final submission to the AER.

### Attendees

- 19 community forum members
- 8 NSW customer forum members
- 3 observers from Australian Energy Regulator and Consumer Challenge Panel
- 12 Evoenergy staff

### Presenters

- Megan Willcox, General Manager Economic Regulation
- Gillian Symmans, Group Manager Regulatory Reviews and Policy
- Ashlyn Napier, Principal Regulatory Economist

### Facilitator

- Helen Leayr, Communication Link

## Outcomes

### Discussion 1: Australian Energy Regulator draft decision initial reactions

#### Q: Any initial reaction to the AER's draft decision?

Members expressed disappointment about the AER ignoring forum feedback and requested alternative ways to share input and to see data from the AER. The draft decision was perceived as short-term and disconnected from ACT-specific needs and forum input.

#### Q: Do you think it reflects the community's feedback? Why/why not?

A total of 63% of members who attended the session completed the Slido question and they suggested the AER's draft decision did not reflect community feedback.

### Activity 1: Accelerated depreciation feedback

#### Q: Reflecting on our values and priorities what feedback do you have on the AER's approach to depreciation?

There was some support for the AER's depreciation approach. There were concerns about it not considering the ACT Government's policies to 2045 and missing decommissioning. Views varied with some noting Evoenergy must acknowledge the gas's declining viability, while others argue it's being pushed to ignore ACT policy. Some suggested that the ACT Government and Evoenergy may need to explore alternative solutions, such as support from electricity customers or taxpayers.

#### Q: Reflecting on our values and priorities what feedback do you have on our initial thinking of an alternative approach?

There was some support for Evoenergy's alternative approach with many considering it a fairer option. Others were unsure.

#### Q: Reflecting on our values and priorities do you have other any ideas about how Evoenergy can respond to its concerns about the implications of the AER's draft decision?

Suggestions include seeking support from government bodies, advocating more to the AER using more quantitative examples and addressing lack of consideration of views.

## Outcomes continued...

### Activity 2: Managing demand forecasting uncertainty feedback

#### Q: Do you think a 50/50 sharing hybrid, a broad hybrid or a narrow hybrid approach is most appropriate in Evoenergy's circumstances? Why?

Majority of members favored a 50/50 sharing hybrid as the fairest and most balanced approach for customers and Evoenergy, though some suggested a broad hybrid for greater price stability and faster transition.

### Discussion 2: Final comments for Evoenergy and AER

#### Q: Thinking about everything we've discussed over the last 18+ months, what do you think are the most important things for Evoenergy to consider as it prepares its revised proposal?

Evoenergy should prioritise customers and community needs while ensuring safety, fairness, clear communication, and long-term viability, balancing cost recovery with affordability and advocating for flexibility in transition timelines.

#### Q: What is your final piece of feedback you would like shared with the AER as it makes its final decision?

The AER should adopt a forward-thinking, flexible approach that prioritises fairness, community input, and long-term outcomes. The AER should recognise the ACT's unique position as the first jurisdiction to close a gas network.

## Next steps

- Update session 12 dashboard summary based on today's feedback.