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Essential News

Latest news from the Essential Services Commission
April 2024

Welcome to Essential News, our regular update on key decisions, releases and events from the Essential Services Commission.

Goulburn-Murray Water price review 2024

We recently held a hybrid public forum at South Shepparton Community Centre as part of our review of Goulburn-Murray Water's proposed prices and service priorities for the next four years.

It was a great opportunity to hear from stakeholders as their feedback will help inform our final decision.

Our draft decision remains open for feedback until 7 May 2024 with the final decision on prices to be released in June 2024.

In case you missed the public forum, you can watch the recording below.

[Find out more via Engage Victoria →](#)



Utility Regulators Forum

Our staff and leaders attended the Utility Regulators Forum to hear from and collaborate with fellow regulators in different jurisdictions.

There were some interesting panel discussions on:

- Emerging issues and opportunities facing regulators
- Emission reductions in a regulatory context
- Ensuring regulation of local government benefits ratepayers
- How water regulation intersects with the housing crisis

We value the ongoing exchange of ideas and information with other regulators to help us deliver better outcomes for

Revoking the Electricity System Code

Following engagement with stakeholders, we published our final decision to revoke the [Electricity System Code](#) – a regulatory instrument established in 2000.

The code contains obligations for Victorian electricity transmission and distribution businesses. The National Electricity Rules and the National Electricity Law now largely regulate these. Revoking the code will streamline obligations and reduce complexity of Victoria's energy regulatory framework.

Revocation of the code will take effect on 31 May 2024.

[Read more about our decision →](#)



Markets and consumers, efficiency and fairness conference

We heard from a diverse range of voices at our *Markets and consumers, efficiency and fairness* conference. Over 250 people gathered for a day of contemplation and debate on the evolution and future of economic regulation.

We were pleased to host an insightful and information conference that lead to robust, in-depth discussions with experts in regulation, policy, essential services and consumer advocacy.

We are reminded that trust matters in economic regulation especially when we are navigating challenging times and supporting consumers experiencing vulnerability.

Thank you to our attendees, speakers, facilitators and staff for an incredible

Victorian consumers.



event.



Your consumer rights and the support available to you

Learn about your rights as a consumer in the sectors we regulate, including electricity and gas, local government, water, transport and the Victorian Energy Upgrades program.

[Find out more →](#)



Consultation

We're currently seeking feedback on the following:

- [Shell Energy Retail Pty Ltd - application for electricity wholesale licence](#) - consultation closes 2 May 2024
- [Goulburn-Murray Water price review 2024](#) - consultation closes 7 May 2024
- [Greater Western Water price review 2024](#) - consultation closes 7 May 2024
- [Powercor Australia Limited – application for electricity transmission licence](#) - consultation closes 11 June 2024

[Visit our consultations page →](#)

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