

Consumer Challenge Panel - Member Biographies

Ms Jo De Silva

Ms Jo De Silva is a Senior Policy Officer responsible for energy policy at the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS). Since commencing this role, Jo has contributed to a number of AER regulatory processes. Jo's previous experience and her role at SACOSS has provided her with good links to a number of consumer organisations, the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA), government departments, Members of Parliament and their staff. Jo is also a participant in the National Consumer Roundtable on Energy.

Jo's previous work experience includes Economics and Social Justice Adviser to Australian Greens Senator Bob Brown.

Mr Hugh Grant

Mr Hugh Grant has extensive experience in the energy industry in Europe and Australia. He has an in-depth understanding of the commercial, technical and regulatory environments within which electricity networks operate.

As Executive Director of *ResponseAbility*, Mr Grant provides cost effective and pro-bono support to energy consumers and consumer advocacy bodies, aimed at ensuring that consumers' long-term interests are more explicitly considered.

Since leaving the energy industry in 2009, Mr Grant has assisted a diverse range of consumers and consumer advocacy bodies, advocating for reforms to Australia's energy market and regulatory frameworks, and developing submissions to regulatory determinations.

Mr Grant currently chairs and serves on a diverse range of boards, working groups and advisory panels.

Mr David Headberry

Mr David Headberry has extensive experience in the energy industry. David is currently the Director of Headberry Partners, providing advice on energy matters to large energy users. He has also been involved in a number of SCER, AER, AEMC and state regulatory processes, representing the interests of large energy consumers.

David is currently a non-executive director of the Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria.

Mr Mark Henley

Mr Mark Henley is the Energy Advocate with UnitingCare Australia and also Manager, Advocacy and Communication with Uniting Communities in South Australia. Since commencing this role, Mark has been involved in a number of AEMC, AER, Senate, DRET and Productivity Commission processes. Mark is a member of a number of energy consultative groups including the AER's Customer Consultative Group, and ESOCSA's Community Advisory Committee. He is also an inaugural and continuing member of the national Consumer Roundtable on Energy.

Mark is currently the President of the Economics Society of SA, a Member of the Standards Australia reference group regarding energy networks, member of the Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce and Chair of Innovative Community Action Networks (Education) for Adelaide East and Hills region.

Ms Bev Hughson

Ms Bev Hughson has 30 years of experience. In 2012, Bev established her own consulting company, Darach Energy Consulting Services, providing advice and support services to consumer organisations on energy related matters.

Bev previously worked at Origin Energy Retail Limited. At Origin, Bev had a number of responsibilities including managing the retail regulatory policy and strategy functions during a time of structural change. She was previously the national retail pricing and tariffs manager, responsible for gas and electricity pricing, including negotiating regulated pricing arrangements with state regulators.

Ms Ruth Lavery

Ms Ruth Lavery is a former Director, Analysis and Policy Development and Program Manager at IPART. While working at IPART Ruth provided economic and regulatory analysis and competition policy advice to the New South Wales (NSW) Government and led reviews of the financial effectiveness of monopoly businesses in NSW.

Ruth is currently serving a second term as a Trustee of the NSW Government's Responsible Gambling Fund.

Mr Bruce Mountain

Mr Bruce Mountain is an energy economist and has worked in this field for 22 years. He has expertise in the economic regulation of networks and the design of electricity markets and renewable energy policies. As a Director at Carbon and Energy markets (CME), Bruce has worked with a range of bodies including energy regulators, government departments, industry associations, energy users and non-governmental organisations.

Mr David Prins

Mr David Prins is the Managing Director of Etrog Consulting, a consultancy providing advice and resources to clients in energy and utilities. David has 23 years of experience specialising in the application of effective regulation and competition in electricity and gas industries.

Much of David's recent work has focused on advice on smart metering and energy pricing and margins. He has worked with many national and jurisdictional government bodies and consumer organisations.

Ms Robyn Robinson

Ms Robyn Robinson has extensive experience in the energy industry. Her previous experience includes 15 years as an Executive Manager at Queensland transmission company Powerlink, providing corporate governance, financial management and strategic direction for the organisation. With a background in IT management, she was responsible for the development and delivery of IT services for Powerlink.

Robyn's current roles include Director at Council on the Ageing (COTA) Queensland and a member of the Finance and Risk Committee and COTA Queensland Policy Committee.