

Paula Conboy
Chair
AER



By email Paula.Conboy@aer.gov.au

5 May 2016

Dear Paula,

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We write concerning ElectraNet's Early Engagement Approach as members of the ElectraNet Consumer Advisory Panel.

In their letter to the AER dated 26 April 2016, ElectraNet wrote: "Both the AER and Consumer Advisory Panel have expressed support for moving forward with the Early Engagement Approach as described above."

We note that the Consumer Advisory Panel is not a decision making forum, as articulated by ElectraNet's independent facilitator, Ann Shaw Rungie:

"My view is the Panel doesn't have a remit to make agreements (see below from the Charter for Consumer Advisory Panel):

Members are not required to reach consensus on issues or make binding group decisions or submissions" (Email to SACOSS, 4 April 2016).

SACOSS has previously raised concerns about the Early Engagement Approach and we understand that other groups such as Business SA have also expressed concerns.

We seek to meet with the AER to discuss the role that the AER will play in the revenue determination process for ElectraNet and to express our residual concerns related to the commitment by the AER to participation in the Early Engagement Approach, particularly as it relates to other network revenue determinations.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions relating to the above, please contact SACOSS Senior Policy Officer, Jo De Silva on 8305 4211 or via jo@sacoss.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Jo De Silva
Senior Policy Officer