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Expert panel formed to review Australian energy businesses

An independent Accountability Panel has been appointed to review many of Australia's key energy businesses under a world-first initiative to improve customer outcomes, the Energy Charter.

Mr John Cleland, Energy Charter CEO Council Chair and CEO of Essential Energy said the appointment of the independent panel was an important milestone in the Energy Charter.

"I am pleased to welcome Dr Cassandra Goldie, Mr Andrew Richards and Mr Philip Weickhardt to join the Chair, Dr Wendy Craik AM on the independent Accountability Panel for the Energy Charter," Mr Cleland said.

The CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service, Dr Cassandra Goldie has been appointed as the Panel's consumer representative. Dr Goldie has extensive experience in economic and social issues, civil society, social justice and human rights. She has more than a decade's experience in advocating for an affordable and equitable transition to clean energy, especially for people on low-incomes.

Mr Andrew Richards, CEO of the Energy Users of Association of Australia, will serve as the Panel's commercial and industrial end-user representative, having worked within the energy industry for the past 28 years and played a key role in numerous state and federal parliamentary inquiries into energy and climate change policy.

Former Orica CEO and Productivity Commissioner, Mr Philip Weickhardt has been appointed as the Panel's industry representative. Mr Weickhardt has previously chaired the Business Council of Australia's Energy Reform Taskforce.

They join Dr Wendy Craik AM, who was appointed as Chair of the Accountability Panel in January. She currently chairs the Climate Change Authority, is a board member of the Reserve Bank and the Advisory Board for the Centre for Strategy and Governance. She previously served as Commissioner at the Productivity Commission and President of the National Competition Council.

Mr Cleland said the Energy Charter signatories welcomed the wealth of experience and expertise the panellists would bring to the Energy Charter disclosure process.

"The Panel has an important role to play in independently evaluating and reporting on the performance of Energy Charter participants, recognising good performance and providing guidance on opportunities for improvement."

Mr Cleland said the Energy Charter had been established recognising the industry was undergoing a period of tremendous change and needed to transform accordingly.

"The Energy Charter is a world-first initiative to unite Australia's energy industry to improve customer outcomes through energy affordability, reliability and sustainability," Mr Cleland said.

"Energy companies from across Australia's energy supply chain have committed to improving energy affordability and delivering reliable, sustainable and safe energy, putting the customer at the centre of everything we do."

"The Energy Charter provides the framework for the industry to work together to achieve these objectives for consumers, users and the community."



Energy Charter businesses will deliver their first disclosure reports in September 2019. The Accountability Panel will review these submissions and publish a public report on their findings and recommendations at the end of November 2019.

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Download at www.theenergycharter.com.au

- The Energy Charter
- The Energy Charter in Operation
- The Energy Charter on a Page

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Participating businesses

ActewAGL, AGL, APA Group, Aurora Energy, Ausgrid, AusNet Services, Australian Gas Infrastructure Group, Clean Co, CS Energy, Endeavour Energy, Energy Queensland Limited including Ergon Energy Network, Energex, Yurika and Ergon Energy Retail, EnergyAustralia, Essential Energy, Jemena & Ovida, Meridian Energy Australia & Powershop Australia, Origin Energy, Powerlink Queensland, Stanwell and TransGrid.

Accountability Panel Host

Energy Consumers Australia, the national voice for residential and small business energy consumers (www.energyconsumersaustralia.com.au) is the host of the Accountability Panel.

Accountability Panel Biographies

1. **Chair – Dr Wendy Craik AM.** Dr Craik is the current Chair of the Climate Change Authority. She was appointed to the Reserve Bank Board in May 2018. She is also a Member of the Advisory Board for the Centre for Strategy and Governance and the Board of the Australian Farm Institute. She has previously served as a Commissioner at the Productivity Commission, President of the National Competition Council, Executive Director of National Farmers Federation and Executive Officer of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.
2. **Consumer representative – Dr Cassandra Goldie,** CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), the national peak body for the community sector, and an advocate for tackling poverty and disadvantage. She has deep public policy expertise in economic and social issues, civil society, social justice and human rights and is a regular media and public commentator and conference presenter. Cassandra is Adjunct Professor with UNSW Law. She serves on the Advisory Committee for the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, the UNSW Law Advisory Committee, the Australian Climate Roundtable, and the Management Committee of the International Council of Social Welfare.
3. **Commercial and industrial end-user representative – Andrew Richards,** CEO of the Energy Users of Australia Association. Andrew has over 30 years of energy industry and infrastructure development experience having held a variety of senior management roles in the areas of



sales and marketing, public and stakeholder relations, media and communications, strategic planning, policy development, stakeholder engagement and political advocacy. For the last three years he has been Chief Executive Officer of the Energy Users Association of Australia (EUAA). With significant experience in energy policy, political advocacy and stakeholder engagement Andrew continues to play a key role in a range of forums including the AEMO Expert Panel, the Federal Government Energy Industry Roundtable, the AER Value of Customer Reliability Consultative Committee and the recently formed National Hydrogen Strategy Taskforce Stakeholder Advisory Panel. Andrew is also deeply involved in ongoing engagement on behalf of energy users with the ACCC, AEMC, ESB, COAG Energy Council, AER and via numerous industry related customer reference groups.

4. **Industry representative – Philip Weickhardt**, former CEO of Orica Ltd (1997-2001) and Productivity Commissioner (2003-2014). Philip had a long career with ICI in both the United Kingdom and Australia prior to being appointed CEO of ICI Australia Ltd and then Orica Ltd. He was a Director and then Chairman of Incitec Limited (1994-1998). He chaired the Business Council of Australia's Energy Reform Taskforce (1997-2001) and was a member of the Government's Trade Policy Advisory Council. He served as an Associate Commissioner of the Productivity Commission (2002-2003). He was a member of the Advisory Board for Anglo American (Australia) (2006-2011) and was the Chairman of the Earthwatch Institute Australia (2002-2011) and the Chairman of Pilotlight Australia (now Igniting Change) from 2003-2009.