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CONSUMERS URGED TO HELP SHAPE FUTURE DIRECTION

Electricity distributors CitiPower and Powercor are urging electricity consumers to have their say and help shape the businesses' future directions and priorities by responding to a consultation paper that we have published today.

The Directions and Priorities Consultation Paper draws together feedback that has been received from customers and stakeholders through surveys, interviews, focus groups and forums, and seeks further comment on CitiPower and Powercor's future plans, directions and priorities.

Submissions regarding the consultation paper will help refine CitiPower and Powercor's regulatory proposals for the five year period from 2016-2020 to be lodged with the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) in April 2015. The AER assesses the regulatory proposal and makes a decision on the revenues or prices that the business can earn or charge during the five year period.

Chief Executive Officer Tim Rourke said the businesses have already engaged with a broad range of stakeholders to help shape and inform CitiPower and Powercor's priorities and ensure future plans meet customer and community expectations.

"At CitiPower and Powercor we are committed to efficient investment in our networks and maintaining a safe, reliable electricity network in the long term interests of our customers," Tim said.

The paper outlines a number of activities planned over the upcoming five-year pricing period including supply reliability, different types of tariffs, through to network connections, service standards and investment in growing metropolitan and regional areas. It also considers the application of emerging technologies and the future of the network.

"Our customers have already told us they want a reliable electricity supply at a reasonable price; they want us to pay close attention to safety and maintenance including additional investment in activities that reduce the bushfire risk; and they support targeted investment in areas which are growing," Tim said.

Feedback also shows that customers expect CitiPower and Powercor to forward and proactively plan to ensure the integrity, capacity and capability of their networks now and into the future.

"CitiPower and Powercor are committed to understanding emerging technologies, alternative sources of energy and changing consumer patterns, to ensure effective and cost efficient development of our networks," Tim said.

The Directions and Priorities Consultation Paper and supporting information can be found at the [Talking Electricity website](http://www.talkingelectricity.com.au) – www.talkingelectricity.com.au.

Submissions close on Friday 31st October 2014.

Media inquiries: CitiPower and Powercor Australia's media line on (03) 9683 4342

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