

COMMON EQUITY

E-BULLETIN

1ST MAY 2020

CENSW CO-OPS FORUM 2019 - ACTION PLAN PART 2

As highlighted in the last Bulletin issue (17 April 2020) we provided feedback from the Co-ops Forum held in Sydney on 26 October 2019. Attendees voted on areas of priority /importance and CENSW developed a Co-ops Forum Action Plan.

In this issue we are listing the items that we aim to address in the **medium term**– i.e. between 1 – 3 years.

Item & Votes Received	CENSW Response
<p>Item 4, 11 votes Request titles from government</p>	<p>Linked to Business Plan item 1.11. We have formally requested titles from government on several occasions, unfortunately without success. This continues to be a priority for CENSW.</p>
<p>Item 8, 9 votes Exploring partnerships with private investors to increase housing stock</p>	<p>Linked to Business Plan item 1.10. CENSW has entered a partnership with Community Housing Limited (CHL) and will explore sector growth opportunities through any future Social Housing Management Transfers should they arise. CENSW is currently undertaking the feasibility of other ownership models such as mixed equity to better place CENSW should funding opportunities become available.</p>
<p>Item 9, 7 votes Co-ops to integrate ecological design i.e. passive cooling/heating; solar panels; recycled and recyclable building materials</p>	<p>CENSW has partnered with Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to undertake thermal property upgrades to improve building performance of eligible properties by way of ceiling insulation, draft proofing, and high efficiency Hot Water Systems (HWS). A funding agreement has been signed off and roll out will be over the next 18 months.</p>
<p>Item 10, 6 votes Create festival information kit- outsource to co-ops</p>	<p>CENSW will develop a KIT, and promotional material, that can be shared with co-ops for promotional activities. A booking system will be developed and promoted to the Sector when it is available.</p>
<p>Item 13, 4 votes Communication with Community Groups- churches, clubs, ACOSS, student unions and trade unions</p>	<p>Co-op & staff attending Orientation weeks at universities /Tafe. CENSW central waiting list to be established for individuals/ co-ops to register. CENSW to develop a Factsheet introducing Co-operative Housing and the application process. This</p>

	will be used as a promotional tool with community groups etc. (To be included in festival information kit, item 9)
Item 14, 4 votes Lobbying local MPs, coordinated unified lobbying, messages published in Bulletin	CENSW is a member of the Australian Co-operative Housing Alliance (ACHA) – Communications subcommittee who are tasked with the development of key messages about Co-operative Housing. CENSW will make these available on the website as they become available.
Item 17, 4 votes Asset Management Plan (AMP) training for co-ops & support from CENSW	CENSW would love to gauge interest in this training and will put out an EOI to the sector in an upcoming Bulletin.
Item 18, 4 votes Co-ops to store rainwater and re-use greywater on edible permaculture gardens with raised compost barrels and worm farms	To support this, CENSW will share some local council resources on our website. Co-ops are encouraged to refer to local councils for any funding opportunities.
Item 20, 4 votes Consistent communication - about what co-ops are, universal understanding, uniqueness of each co-op	ACHA key messages and sector news will be shared on the CENSW website as they become available. CENSW invites Co-ops to provide promotion pieces highlighting the uniqueness of their co-op for sharing on the website and other CENSW publications. CENSW will develop key messages on Co-operative Housing to share on the website.

ASSISTANCE PAYING ENERGY BILLS

The NSW Government has significantly boosted Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) funding in response to COVID-19. Customers experiencing financial difficulty will now be offered increased support to help pay their residential electricity and gas bills.

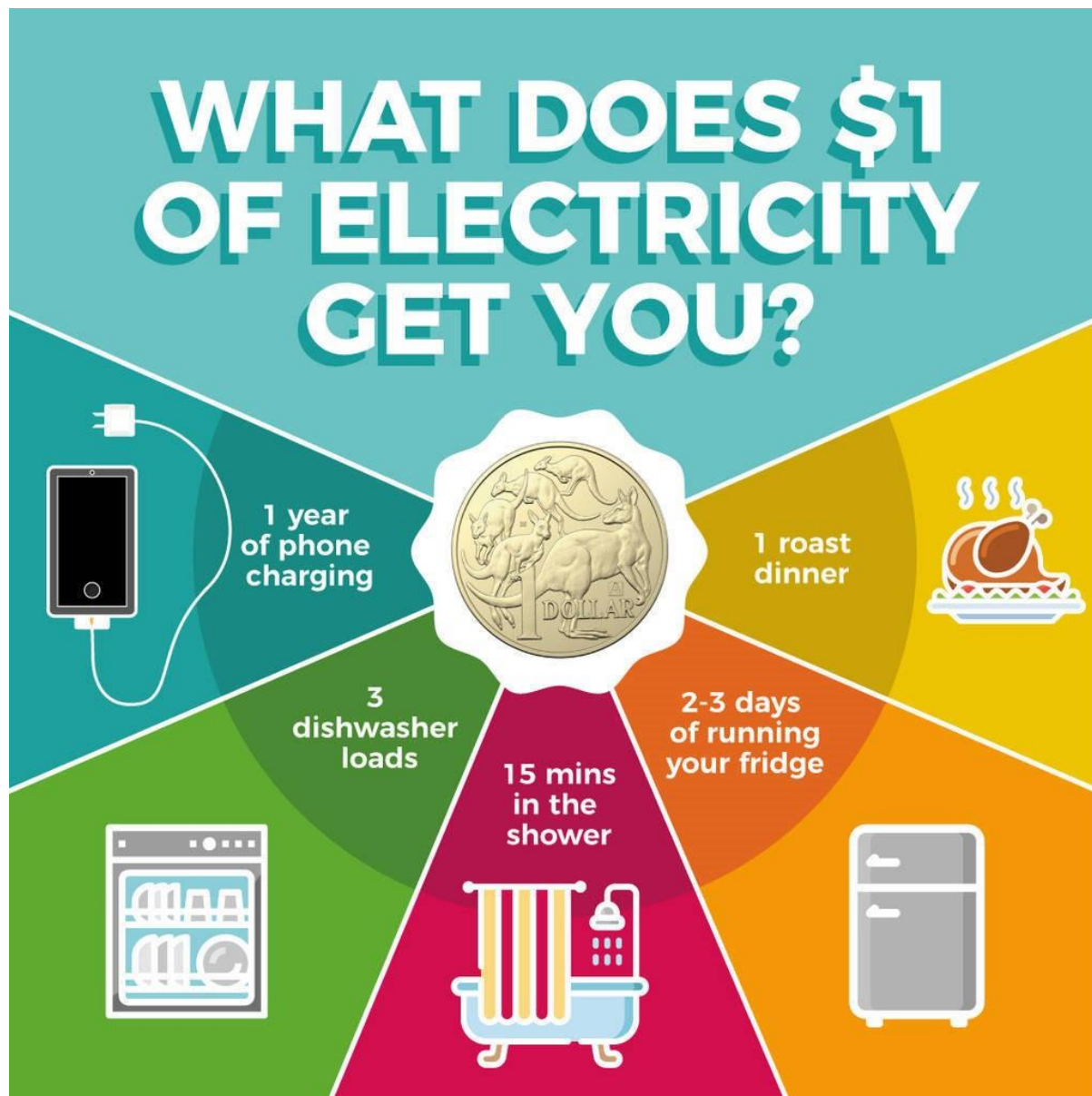


- Customers who have received the maximum value in EAPA vouchers can now be assessed for another application of vouchers.
- Customers who have received two EAPA approved electricity or gas applications can now be assessed for a third application.
- The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will consider requests for a fourth or more applications of EAPA vouchers for any customers impacted by COVID-19.

Contact your energy provider and ask for assistance through the EAPA scheme. Alternatively, here is a [list](#) of EAPA Providers conducting telephone EAPA voucher assessments.

Here is [information](#) on how to manage if you are unable to pay your energy bill on time along with energy saving tips.

You can also visit the Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON) [website](#) for information on support if you have been impacted by COVID-19.



WORLD COOPERATIVE CONGRESS POSTPONED

It has been announced that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 33rd World Cooperatives Congress has been postponed. The event will still be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea and is now scheduled to take place between 1st – 3rd March 2021.



significantly contribute to the global economic, social and environmental reconstruction.

The event will serve as an important forum to:

- Discuss why the co-operative identity, including definition, principles and Values, is needed now more than ever
- Show co-operative resilience by sharing experiences and testimonies; and
- Discuss how co-operatives can

For more information visit their [website](#).

STAFF UPDATE

Nasim Ardestani

CENSW is pleased to advise that we have a new Co-operative Development Officer who has joined the Co-operative Development Team. Nasim comes to us with a wealth of housing experience having previously worked at Hume Housing. She has also worked as a Case Worker for Uniting Burnside and Marist Youth Care and holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

We are sure you will make Nasim feel welcome when you get the opportunity to speak with her.

NEW BULLETIN FORMAT

This is our new bulletin format, and we hope you like it. If you have any feedback please get in touch nicole@commonequity.com.au

This email bulletin is printable and meant for all members, so please feel free to share it with others.

COMMON EQUITY CONTACT DETAILS

Team	Email Address
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Finance	finance@commonequity.com.au

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Stephen Wardrop	Property Manager	02 9356 9220
Joanna Wong	Finance Manager	02 9356 9221
Prema Menon	EA to CEO	02 9356 9212
Poppy Whiting	Senior Projects Manager	02 9356 9224
Mirjana Kreiselmaier	Co-op Development Manager	02 9356 9210
Corine Addison	Operations Manager	02 9356 9288
Maintenance Out of Hours Emergency		0432 664 486

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of the country throughout Australia and pay our respects to them, their culture and their Elders past, present and future.

Photo credits:

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Electricity infographic: Energy Networks Australia

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