

Media release, 27 February 2015: New Executive Officer for the Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre (CUAC)

After six years as Executive Officer of CUAC, Jo Benvenuti is leaving to explore a new career direction. Jo has made an enormous contribution to CUAC in her time as Executive Officer, working strategically to influence policy and regulation to support Victorian utilities consumers; particularly the vulnerable. During her time at CUAC, Jo has worked co-operatively with a wide range of stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes for consumers. These include the CUAC Reference Group, State and Federal governments, regulators, power and water businesses and a range of other community organisations and peak bodies. The Board greatly appreciates the strong position in which Jo has left CUAC and wishes her all the best for her future.

The Board is delighted to announce that Mercedes Lentz has been appointed to the role of Executive Officer. Mercedes has worked extensively in government and in the energy, electricity and water sectors, where she has held strategic development and leadership roles. Mercedes brings a breadth and depth of experience having worked in New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the USA. She has worked passionately with communities and consumers in both the public and private sectors. She is accomplished in dealing with complex regulatory and legislative issues, most recently with one of New Zealand's largest electricity generation and retail companies. Mercedes enjoys working closely with stakeholders at all levels and takes a keen interest in people and the issues they face in their lives.

The Board and staff of CUAC look forward to 2015 working with our new Minister, Jane Garrett and all of our stakeholders, as together we plan effective future strategies to continue to address the many issues that face Victorian utilities consumers in this increasingly complex environment.

Ronda Held

Chair, CUAC Board

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The Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre Ltd (CUAC) is a specialist consumer organisation established in 2002 to represent Victorian energy and water consumers in policy and regulatory processes. As a consumer organisation focused specifically on the energy and water sectors, CUAC has developed an in-depth knowledge of the interests, experiences, and needs of energy and water consumers.