



John Kain

Position	Associate
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Qualifications

BSc, Sydney University

BE (1st Class Hons), Sydney University

Key Skills and Experience

John Kain is an Associate of Economic Insights and Principal of Erldunda Associates.

Prior to becoming a consultant John was employed by the electricity distributor for the Australian Capital Territory, ACT Electricity and Water (ACTEW) and its predecessor organisations. During his time with ACTEW John was employed in various technical and management positions, reaching the positions of Chief Engineer and General Manager Engineering. In this capacity he also acquired experience in supply cost analysis and tariff formulation.

John has prepared analyses of costs and revenues on behalf of the previous New South Wales County Councils over several tariff review cycles and represented the New South Wales County Councils on the National Grid Management Council's Committee on Transmission and Distribution Network Pricing in the lead-up to market introduction in Eastern Australia.

John has undertaken analysis of network costs and formulation of network tariffs for Integral Energy and NorthPower; analysis of the costs and tariffs of the Hydro Electric Commission of Tasmania for the Government Prices Oversight Commission; and a two-part project for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to assist in the identification of those assets owned by NSW distribution authorities which might fall within the Code definitions of transmission.

John's most recent assignments include: benchmarking the operating and capital expenditure performance of Australian electricity distribution businesses for the Australian Energy Regulator; constructing a detailed database of US gas business outputs and inputs for efficiency analysis; assisting with the construction of detailed databases of electricity distribution business performance for the NZ Commerce Commission; and, advising the ENA on development of a nationally consistent suite of service quality performance indicators.

Professional Associations

Member, Institution of Engineers, Australia

Industry Regulation

Board Member, Australian National Electricity Code Administrator

Key Projects

- Advice to the Australian Energy Regulator on economic benchmarking of electricity distribution and transmission networks including development of detailed data collection templates.
- Investigation of the characteristics of energy retail customers remaining on regulated or standing offers in NSW, Queensland and Victoria for the Australian Energy Market Commission.
- Advised the AEMC on the use of actual versus forecast depreciation in rolling forward the asset base between regulatory periods and on a range of capex incentive issues in the AEMC's review of the economic regulation of networks.
- Advised the AEMC on the data and other requirements for the implementation of productivity-based regulation.
- Total factor productivity modelling and benchmarking of gas distribution businesses in Victoria and advice on implications for opex roll forward parameters.
- Constructed detailed productivity databases of Australia Post's reserved service operations.
- Construct a database for total factor productivity and econometric analyses for the New Zealand Commerce Commission's resetting of price regulation parameters for electricity distribution businesses for the period 2009–2014.
- Construct detailed database of US gas business outputs and inputs for efficiency analysis.
- Advise the ENA on development of a nationally consistent suite of service quality performance indicators and assist with developing the ENA's position on incentive regulation and embedded generation issues.
- Benchmark the operating and capital expenditure performance of the two Queensland distributors, Energex and Ergon Energy, against Australian and US distributors.
- Advise the New Zealand Commerce Commission on using the comparative or benchmarking option for resetting the price path threshold for electricity transmission and distribution businesses using total factor productivity and econometric techniques.
- Review proposals for a Network Access Regime in the Northern Territory including asset valuation, analysis of retail tariffs and revenues.
- Cost and Tariff analysis and advice to the Network arms of Electricity Trust of South Australia in anticipation of market operations in that state.
- Prepared a report on Electricity Distributors' Costs and Cost Allocation Methodology and Analysis of Suppliers' Responses. This study confirmed and better quantified the cross-subsidy as well as highlighting the difference between Tariff formats, and the format of allocated costs, particularly for the 'simple' energy only tariffs.
- Identification of cross subsidies in electricity distribution for various clients.