



Response to Question from the [Inquiry into Renewable Energy Innovation in the ACT](#)

Kevin Cox

22nd June 2021

## Electric Cooperatives in the USA

Ninety years after their formation, electric cooperatives are a significant source of USA electricity. [The NRECA website](#) gives the electricity co-operative's history and development. [These graphics](#) show their contribution to renewable electricity production and consumption.

Please note the importance of Roosevelt's support for the formation of co-operatives.. Australian co-operatives need the encouragement of governments to become a force in the shift to renewables and to spread the benefits of lower-cost electricity through the community.

Pre Power One Co-operative aims to become a service provider for local electric consumer co-operatives throughout Australia. Households today are similar to the consumers of the USA in the 1930s. Similar to them, Australian consumers have suffered from electricity price rises over the past twenty years, outstripping inflation and dropping Australia down the world's ranking of electricity costs to consumers. The trend continues with the move to reduce the price of solar electricity from households. As a result, it reduces the attractiveness of solar power from roof-tops and helps sustain electricity generation from fossil fuel.

Pre Power brings a similar innovation to the one USA co-operatives brought to communities in America. By banding together in consumer co-operatives, households will have a stronger voice, share electricity and keep roof-top solar an attractive investment. A critical technical component required to change from a corporate centred system based on fossil fuel to a consumer centred system based on renewable energy is information on consumption and generation supplied through eBRIM. The combination of Pre Power Consumer Cooperatives and eBRIM is an innovation that will put Canberra at the centre of electricity consumer co-operatives and the movement to renewable energy.

eBRIM and Pre Power bring an immediate benefit to local electricity distributors such as EvoEnergy. eBRIM is valuable as it makes savings by shifting the time of electricity consumption from the time of electricity use. It is a low-cost equitable way of operating an energy market as it is available to all households and businesses in Australia. It will reduce EvoEnergy peak loads, reduce the need for expensive network upgrades, and reduce the need for costly Batteries to load shift.