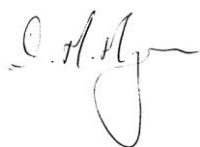


PROGRESS REPORT

Grant no :	AP #436	Date of progress report	16 / 5 / 2011
Grant recipient	Alternative Technology Association		
Project title	Consumer Representation on the National Stakeholder Steering Committee for the National Smart Meter Program		
Timeline of progress report	1 December 2010 – 31 March 2011		
Signatory on behalf of organisation	Name of signatory: Damien Moyse Position: Energy Projects & Policy Manager  Signature:		

OUTLINE HOW PROJECT OUTPUTS HAVE BEEN MET OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD		
Proposed	Actual	Explanation of any variation
Preparation for, attendance at, Consumer Roundtable consultation and travel associated with all NSSC meetings and teleconferences during the second project period (i.e. 1 December 2010 to 31 March 2011) of Project #436.	<p>ATA prepared for and attended a total of five NSSC meetings, one extraordinary NSMP workshop, and at least six teleconferences between 1 December 2010 and 31 March 2011 (as detailed below). These constituted the total number of formal NSSC meetings, out-of-sessions meetings and other teleconferences conducted by the NSSC members during this project period.</p> <p>Formal NSSC meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15th December 2010 (Melbourne); • 9th February 2011 (Melbourne); <p>Out of sessions face to face NSSC meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15th December 2010 (Melbourne); • 25th January 2010 (Sydney); • 9th February 2011 (Melbourne). <p>NSMP workshop attended as NSSC member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th March (Melbourne). <p>Additionally, ATA facilitated five formal meetings in consultation with other representative on the consumer roundtable, as detailed on the following section.</p>	No variation to the contract within this project period.

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OUTLINE THE OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD		
Proposed	Actual	Explanation of any variation
<p>The desired outcome is that consumer issues are raised and given full consideration by the NSSC.</p> <p>This extends to the explanation and articulation of issues addressed through the NSMP Working Groups, as well as issues highlighted by the NSSC where consumer input / feedback is sought.</p>	<p>Consumer issues have been raised and championed throughout the course of each NSSC meeting and out-of-sessions member meetings and other communications during the course of the reporting period. Generally these have been in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary task of the NSSC of guiding the NSMP Working Groups (of which ATA is the one continuing, contributing consumer representative) of the NSMP, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Business Requirements Working Group; ○ the Business Processes and Procedures Working Group; ○ the Pilots and Trials Working Group; ○ the Regulations Working Groups. • The further development of various additional advice to the Ministerial Council on Energy's Standing Committee of Officials, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the development of <i>access and contestability principles</i> for the delivery of smart meter services; ○ the refinement of the new service provider role of <i>Customer Functions Service Provider</i>; • Inputting into transition arrangements for the NSMP and NSSC from having the secretariat support of Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) to being under the management of AEMO as of the end of 2011. <p>ATA worked to ensure that the cessation of secretariat support provided by PWC, which has been a useful resource for consumers participating in the NSMP, caused minimal impact on consumer participation. For example, ATA hosted meetings of consumer representatives and spent additional time directly advising key consumer groups of developments in the NSMP.</p> • Negotiating governance arrangements for the BPPWG, from being a Working Group of the NSMP to becoming an advisory body of the Information Exchange Committee / Retail Market Executive Committee. <p>As the IEC/RMEC does not have consumer representation, this has required input into the development of the BPPWG's revised terms of reference to ensure that, for example, identified consumer issues are reported directly to SCO (as well as IEC/RMEC) to ensure these issues are dealt with transparently.</p> • Negotiating governance and membership arrangements for the PTWG from being a Working Group of the NSMP to becoming a Reference Group of the Energy Networks Association for the purposes of annual reporting of smart meter pilots and trails to SCO. 	

	<p>Through pushing for the preservation of the governance arrangements of the PTWG, ATA were able to ensure that consumer representatives would be given similar status to industry representatives on this group in terms of voting rights and access to raw data, and that new consumer representatives would not be precluded from joining the group. We are still considering advocating for this group to be independently chaired.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements for the handover of incomplete or continuing NSSC deliverables after the proposed formal ending of the NSSC in its current format from the end of April 2011. <p>Importantly, beyond April the NSSC will continue meeting as the Smart Meter Industry and Consumer Reference group. ATA intends to remain on this group as per our current NSSC member role at least until the end of June 2011 (contract cessation date) to guide the transition and assist to establish other consumer representatives (ATA has successfully negotiated that consumer representation on the ICF be increased to four members, which achieves parity with retailers and distributors).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key aspect of the ATA's role as NSSC rep for the consumer roundtable is to steer the development of the <i>Consumer Principles for Home Area Networks and Direct Load Control</i>. This issue is of significant interest to consumers in the event of any smart meter rollout, and the ATA continued extensive consultations with the Consumer Roundtable during this project period in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, with a view to preparing a formal submission for NSSC and SCO consideration. These included workshops facilitated by ATA and attended by various consumer organisations as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7th December 2010 (Melbourne, at PWC); ○ 14th December 2010 (Melbourne); ○ 27th January 2011 (Melbourne, at ATA); ○ 15th February 2011 (Sydney, at PIAC); ○ 22nd February 2011 (Brisbane, at QCOSS). <p>As expected, the preparation of this submission has taken significant resources from ATA to manage both Roundtable consultation and technical input, which is shared between ATA's funding under this project and our funding under the NEM advocacy contract for 2010/11 (Project AP#407).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As representative of the consumer roundtable for the NSSC, ATA (along with NSSC alternate ACOSS) continued to lobby DRET to implement the stalled <i>Consumer Protection and Safety Work Stream</i> which had been intended to pick up on unresolved consumer protection issues identified in the NSMP. In response, DRET undertook to progress a <i>Consumer Protection and Safety Review</i>. <p>On March 9th 2011, ATA facilitated a workshop at ATA's offices in Melbourne in which DRET representatives presented their progress on the Consumer Protection and Safety review. It was attended by ten consumer advocates as well as representatives of Victoria's Department of Primary Industries (DPI).</p> <p>ATA continues to liaise with DRET, providing guidance on various consumer issues in relation to the review.</p>	
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Please provide any other comments on the project	
Please list attachments.	

The Funding Agreement requires an acquittal of the grant at the completion of the project or, where specified, at the completion of a project milestone.

As required in the Funding Agreement, please outline the grant expenditure, and provide an explanation for any variation between budgeted and actual expenditure.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE : PANEL FUNDING				
Item	Budgeted in project proposal	Spent over the reporting period	%age of grant	Where relevant, reason for variation
Preparation for, attendance at, and Consumer Roundtable consultation for five NSSC meetings, one extraordinary NSMP workshop, and a number of teleconferences between 1 December 2010 and 31 March 2011. ATA facilitation of five formal meetings in consultation with other representative on the consumer roundtable.	\$23,315 (exc. GST)	\$5,644.50 (exc. GST) + \$1,449.12 (exc. GST) for travel expenses.	30%	No variation to date, preparation and attendance in line with NSSC requirements.