

TasCOSS National Electricity Market Consumer Advocacy Project (No. 345)

Final Project Report 2009-2010: February 2010 to June 30 2010

This project, involving research and advocacy on national energy issues and jurisdictional issues related to the National Energy Market on behalf of Tasmanian domestic consumers (end users), commenced with funding from the Advocacy Panel in July 2006. This report is the final for the 2009-10 year, and covers the period February to 30 June 2009. Note that project reports for the periods July-October 2009 and November 2009-January 2010 have previously been submitted to the Panel.

Participation in the National Consumers' Roundtable on Energy

TasCOSS has continued to play an active role, as the only Tasmanian participant, in the national network of energy consumer advocates coordinated by the Consumer Action Law Centre. In this quarter, our participation has involved:

- Attendance at the two-day national network of energy consumer advocates 'Roundtable' meeting in Sydney in March, 2010. Delegates discussed consumer issues on a range of energy matters, met with representatives from the AER on Distribution Price Reviews, the AEMC on reviews of retail competition and DRET on their bill bench-marking project.
- Participation in three national teleconferences organised by Roundtable coordinators on the draft National Energy Customer Framework (NECF) and on the AER's Hardship Indicators project.

COSS Network

Participated in two Councils of Social Service (COSS) national energy policy network teleconferences – on the NECF and on energy efficiency policy and the proposed re-introduction of the federal Green Start program.

Tasmanian Energy Regulator's Customer Consultative Committee

TasCOSS continued to participate in the Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator's OTTER Customer Consultative Committee (OCCC) and to receive quarterly reports on the performance of Aurora Energy and updates on the activities of the Regulator's office.

Attended a special briefing from OTTER staff for community sector advocates on Tasmania's energy supply industry: current issues.

Relevant meetings

TasCOSS met with:

- Sue Morrison, Manager, Energy Planning in the Tas Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and the Tasmanian representative on the Retail Policy Working Group regarding the State's position on aspects of the NECF and proposals for transition to the national framework.
- Giles Whitehouse, Aurora Energy to discuss the NECF, transition issues and issues for low income and disadvantaged consumers; and

- Andrew Reeves, AER Commissioner regarding NECF and the role of the AER in its implementation, formulation of guidelines, etc.

Attended National Building Energy Standard-Setting, Assessment and Rating Framework consultation with Department of Climate Change & Energy Efficiency (April 2010).

Submissions

TasCOSS made the following submissions:

[PDF Copies of all submissions attached with e-mail version of this report]

- Submission to the Tasmanian Economic Regulator on proposed changes to the *Tasmanian Electricity Code* (March 2010).
- Submission to Prime Minister's Task Group on Energy Efficiency on its *Issues Paper* (April 2010).
- Submission to the Tasmanian Economic Regulator in response to Aurora Energy's submission to the *Investigation of Maximum Prices for Retail Tariffs on Mainland Tasmania 2009-2010* (which will set retail electricity prices for the determination period 2010-2013) (May, 2010).
- Submission to the Australian Energy Regulator on its *Developing National Hardship Indicators Issues Paper* (June 2010).

July 8, 2010

Kath McLean
Policy & Research Officer
Tasmanian Council of Social Service

PO Box 1126
Sandy Bay TAS 7006
Phone (03) 6231 0755 Fax (03) 6223 6136