

29<sup>th</sup> July 2011



## **ATA Advocacy Report – Project #407**

For the 4-months from 1 December 2010 to 31 March 2011

This report outlines advocacy activity undertaken by ATA, under funding from the National Consumers Electricity Advocacy Panel funded project #407. This activity was undertaken for the second reporting period in line with the approved funding tranches under the contract – this period commencing at the beginning of December 2010 and continuing through to the end of March 2011.

In line with ATA's approved funding application for project #407, the provision of 70 days of advocacy output was delivered, satisfying the relevant KPI's for this project period. This level of output was achieved across the following policy inquiries and working groups.

### **1.0 Advocacy Completed:**

Provided submissions, working group attendance and general advocacy to the following policy inquiries and working groups:

#### **1.1 The National Smart Meter Program (NSMP)**

##### **1.1.1 Business Requirements Working Group (BRWG)**

ATA continued to be a key contributor to the BRWG during this period of project #407. In the BRWG, issues are canvassed and decisions made on a consensus basis, during the course of working group meetings and generally via email correspondence or teleconference outside of meetings. This year the BRWG also formed a number of subcommittees, most of which ATA has productively joined, to progress some deliverables.

During December to March, ATA attended the following BRWG meetings:

- 6<sup>th</sup> December (Melbourne);
- 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February (Home Area Network RFI Evaluation Group, Sydney);
- 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March (Melbourne, attended 1.0 day).

The focus of the BRWG over the five month period included the following:

- Finalising the *National Smart Meter Infrastructure Minimum Functional Specification*, with focus on Home Area Networks (HAN), a key issue for consumers;
- Conducting and responding to the Vendors Request for Information (RFI) to validate the work done on the MFS to date and to assist moving forward with Home Area Networks.

All of the above areas have significant cost and benefit implications for all consumers, including ATA members, particularly concerning:

- customer access to, visibility of, and ownership of metering data;
- HANs and In-Home Displays (IHDs);
- assessing the costs and realising the benefits of smart metering for consumers; and
- direct load control services.

In addition to the work of the BRWG that was forecast at the time of ATA's application to the Consumer Advocacy Panel for this project, a BRWG sub-committee called the *HAN RFI Evaluation Group* was formed in December 2010 to:

- evaluate responses to an RFI put out to vendors Home Area Network hardware and software providers;
- assess the Smart Meter Infrastructure Minimum Functional specification against information gathered from responses;
- recommend to the SCO, via the BRWG and NSSC, preferred HAN technologies for both the physical layer and the application layer;
- recommend any proposed changes to the Smart Meter Infrastructure Minimum Functional Specification resulting from the adoption of the above.

Numerous issues of concern to ATA members, as well and some significant issues around the evaluation process itself, were identified and addressed during this process. ATA are pleased with the productive outcome of our contribution to this sub-group.

The HAN RFI EG met face to face over two days in February and via teleconference numerous times during the reporting period, along with out-of-sessions time resulting in 4 days additional commitment above normal BRWG activities during this time. This additional time was anticipated and adjusted for during our previous reporting period therefore no further adjustments are required at this stage.

The work of the BRWG is documented at the following website:

<http://share.aemo.com.au/smartmetering/Pages/BRWG.aspx>

**Project Budget Tracking: BRWG**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
6	26	29	0	3

**1.1.2 Business Processes and Procedures Working Group (BPPWG)**

ATA continue to be the only organisation representing consumers on BPPWG. The July to November period of the BPPWG saw a significant broadening in the scope of work undertaken.

At the time of our application in early 2010, the BPPWG was scheduled to meet for two days each month.

This changed in mid to late 2010 when the BPPWG was tasked with developing the SMI MFS into business processes and procedures, as opposed to the RWG writing the SMI MFS into the NER, which was the original intended location for the SMI. This significant change required a corresponding resource re-allocation to for ATA.

As a result of this change, ‘full’ participation in the BPPWG now involves up to six full days every month of meeting time and similar out-of-sessions commitment. Thus given our resource limitations, ATA’s involvement in this group is focused on attending approximately half of the meetings, on a key issues-targeted basis, and with limited occasional out-of-sessions work focused on resolving consumer issues directly with the program secretariat.

During December to March, ATA attended the following BPPWG meetings:

- 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> December (Melbourne, attended 1.5 days);
- 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> February (Melbourne, attended 1.0 days);
- 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> February (Brisbane, attended 1.5 days);
- 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> March (Melbourne, attended 2.0 days).

ATA’s focus was on informing the development of processes and procedures for a range of customer services functions delivered by smart meters, particularly relating to:

- Remote connection and disconnection;
- Accessing and supplying meter data;
- Meter configuration and reconfiguration requirements for consumers with solar PV and other forms of demand side participation;
- Delivery of HAN services;
- Recommendations to SCO regarding the role of market participants.

**Project Budget Tracking: BPPWG**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
9.5	25	30	0	5

Following on from the change to the role of the BPPWG, a corresponding change in governance arrangements occurred, and from January 2011 onwards BPPWG effectively became an advisory body for the IEC/RMEC. In addition, to acknowledge the resource limitations that impact our participation in the BPPWG, the NSMP’s new secretariat AEMO is investigating ways to engage with consumers more efficiently.

Both of these factors will effect ATA’s participation in the BPPWG for the remainder of the Project #407 period, but we are not yet able to estimate what the effect will be on our allocated days, hence further adjustments to our allocation may need to be made for this period.

The work of the BPPWG is documented at the following website:

<http://share.aemo.com.au/smartmetering/Pages/BPPWG.aspx>

### 1.1.3 Regulations Working Group (RWG)

Due to the removal of some key RWG deliverables after our application for funding for Project #407 was prepared (see BPPWG, above), the RWG undertook a narrower scope of work than anticipated in 2010/11. As such, RWG activities were wound down prior to this reporting period.

#### Project Budget Tracking: RWG

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
0	3	3	0	0

### 1.1.4 Consumer Principles Paper on the Home Area Network (HAN)

In mid 2010, MCE SCO made a request to the NSSC of the NSMP to provide input from the Consumer Roundtable to provide consumer principles for Home Area Networks and Direct Load Control. ATA undertook to coordinate the development of a consumer-led paper on appropriate principles to guide the development and implementation of HANs under any smart meter roll-out.

Continuing on from its work on this process during the first project period for project #407, ATA facilitated additional meetings throughout the course of December, January and February with members of the Consumer Roundtable, along with subsequent online discussions in order to continue to refine the working paper for the consumer HAN. A copy of the relevant working paper for this project period is attached to this report:

- 7<sup>th</sup> December (at PWC, Melbourne);
- 14<sup>th</sup> December (at PWC, Melbourne);
- 27<sup>th</sup> January at (at ATA, Melbourne);
- 9<sup>th</sup> March (at ATA, Melbourne).

Given the significant time inputs required to consult with member organisations of the Consumer Roundtable on Energy for this process, including individual briefings and communication in relation to specific areas of interest for individual organisations, both Craig Memery and Damien Moyse have been required to allocate time to this process.

Craig's hours for this process are covered under ATA's Project #436, in his role as Consumer Representative on the NSSC of the NSMP. The time associated with the meetings above purely cover Damien's contribution to this process.

#### Project Budget Tracking: NSMP – Coordination with Roundtable Members

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
3	6	6	0	0

## 1.2 Small Generator Reference Group (AEMO)

Following on from ATA’s February 2010 submission to AEMO as part of their consultation on ‘minimising barriers to cost effective small generator participation in the NEM’, AEMO established a Small Generator Reference Group (SGRG). ATA were appointed as the consumer representative to provide input from the perspective of micro-generators and community scale renewable energy projects.

The work undertaken at these meetings focused on the delivery of a final version of the Small Generator Framework Design. Given its size, it has not been included within this report as an attachment but can be found at: <http://www.aemo.com.au/registration/0110-0062.pdf>

The work of the SGRG was completed before this reporting period.

### **Project Budget Tracking: SGRG**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
0	4	4	0	0

## 1.3 Smart Grids Australia (SGA)

ATA was asked to contribute to the Consumer Interest Working Group (CIWG) of the Smart Grids Australia (SGA) project. Given the relevance of smart grids to micro-generation, ATA was happy to extend its advocacy efforts to this process, contributing to a number of teleconferences.

Over the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, ATA attended a number of consumer related sessions in SGA’s Annual Smart Grid Forum in Melbourne to canvass consumer issues broadly and continue to inform SGA member organisation’s understanding of these issues.

### **Project Budget Tracking: SGA**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
1	2	2	0	0

#### **1.4 Victorian Bushfire Management Advisory Committee (BMAC) / Bushfire Powerline Safety Taskforce (BPST)**

In response to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires, the Victorian Government established a Royal Commission to investigate the causes of, and potential responses to, the fires. The Royal Commission made a number of recommendations, including progressively replacing the electricity network with technology that reduces the risk of bushfires started by the network.

In response to these recommendations, the Victorian Government established the Bushfire Powerline Safety Taskforce (the Taskforce) to consider in more detail a broad range of options. Prior to making further recommendations, the Taskforce determined to trial potential options over the course of 2011.

One of the trials focuses on not-network solutions for mitigating bushfire risks, in the form of remote area power supplies (RAPS) for electricity generation for 10 households in Victoria. RAPS generate electricity for the household, rather than electricity being supplied from the electricity grid. RAPS generally consist of a battery, solar panels to charge the battery and a back up diesel generator, housed within a container on a property.

Importantly, from the broader consumer perspective, the outcome of this trial should represent a significant saving to energy users in the form of avoided network costs, potentially totalling tens or hundreds of millions of dollars depending on the eventual approach taken by the Victorian Government.

In line with its application for Project #407, the ATA was asked to join Energy Safe Victoria's *Bushfire Minimisation Advisory Committee* in early 2010, in order to provide both technical expertise to inform the RAPS trials and as a consumer advocate representing the interests of householders and potentially other small users who may have the opportunity to disconnect from the grid in bushfire affected areas.

At the time of our application the resource commitments of this process were not well known, and since it has become evident that the in-sessions and out of sessions requirements will exceed one day per month on average. Accordingly our total projected days were adjusted in line with the last reporting period.

Additionally, we expect the time requirements of this project to further increase over coming months, as a result of the following:

- The additional role of the taskforce, early in 2011, to advise the Victorian Energy Minister with recommendations regarding the allocation of the new government's \$50 Million Safer Electrical Assets Fund;
- Other changes of reference of the Taskforce made by Victoria's new Energy Minister; and
- Matters that have arisen in relation to the Taskforce's trials requiring ATA's close attention to the interpretation of data and conclusions arising from the trial results.

With this in mind, ATA has added a further 10 days to the time allocated to the Taskforce for the 2010/11 period.

During December to March, ATA attended the following BPST meetings (all in Melbourne):

- 13<sup>th</sup> December (one full day for preparation, attendance and follow up);
- 17<sup>th</sup> January (one full day for preparation, attendance and follow up);
- 14<sup>th</sup> February (1.5 days for preparation, briefing and follow up); and
- 15<sup>th</sup> March (one full day for preparation, briefing and follow up).

During December and January, ATA spent considerable time on the drafting of Taskforce’s Interim Report. However the Victorian Energy Minister determined in January 2011 that the Interim Public Report would no longer be required. As the report was not approved for release, unfortunately we are unable to provide a draft to the Advocacy Panel as part of this report.

It was decided that due to the challenges faced by ATA in obtaining agreement from the industry dominated Taskforce members on key issues, as well as our concerns regarding some of the Taskforce’s process issues, that ATA’s CEO Ian Porter would attend taskforce meetings in place of technical specialist Craig Memery from January onwards, whilst Craig has maintained an advisory role.

Ian’s time in this role will be considered as an in-kind contribution of CEO resources as per our funding agreement.

**Project Budget Tracking: BMAC / BPST**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
9	22	18	+10	6

**1.5 Victorian Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Program: AER Review of Smart Meter Remote Service Charges for Victorian AMI Program**

Given ATA’s role over the past 18 months on the working groups of the National Smart Meter Program and the Customer Consultative Working Group (CCWG) of the Victorian AMI rollout, ATA was in an excellent position to provide a submission to the AER’s *Review of Smart Meter Remote Service Charges* for the Victorian AMI program.

Given our experience, ATA was particularly concerned:

- by the costs proposed by many of the DNSPs for disconnection, reconnection and meter reconfiguration;
- that future efficiency gains through service automation, maturity and volume were not being captured in these cost proposals;
- by the associated methodology and assumptions proposed by the DNSPs used to justify the proposed charges; and
- by a number of material errors that ATA found in the DNSPs applications that became evident in our review of the proposals.

As well as drawing on the experience and knowledge ATA have drawn from the National Smart Meter Program, ATA undertook further research and modeling in order to overcome some of the information barriers presented by the confidential nature of much of the information provided by DNSPs (the publically available AER consultation paper contained limited useful information in this regard). Three Roundtable consumer organisations (CALC, CUAC and St Vincent de Paul) provided feedback and signed on to ATA's submission.

ATA's submission to this review is attached to this report.

Subsequent to this submission, the AER requested that the ATA attend a meeting with AER staff and representatives of four of the five Victorian DNSPs. This meeting took place in Melbourne at the AER's offices on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, and canvassed each of the points raised by the ATA's submission.

In developing the submission to AER and in preparation for and following the meeting with AER and the DNSPs, the ATA undertook consultation with members of the Consumer Roundtable on Energy. This included face to face meetings, numerous phone meetings and emails in preparation of the submission as well as in the lead up to and following our meeting with the AER and distributors.

ATA have been informally advised that as direct a result of the issues raised through our involvement in this process, DRET/SCO and possibly DPI have engaged in dialogue with distributors to understand what barriers are preventing the efficient delivery of smart meter services Victoria and considering what measures could be implemented to improve this situation.

We note that some of our time allocated to this process was taken up with arisings from SCO's routine review and commentary of ATA's submission, although this did not result in any changes to ATA's submission to the AER.

## **1.6 Victorian Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Program: Other Activities**

As a result of a member survey that ATA undertook during the previous Advocacy Panel grant period (project #356), the issue of the impact of time of use (ToU) tariffs for micro-generators, and in particular solar PV customers, became prevalent during the July to November project period.

Subsequent to ATA's attendance at relevant policy meetings with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in August, September and October, ATA followed up with direct meetings with DPI staff in December, to ensure a workable outcome was reached (in light of both discussions at the previous meetings and of analysis undertaken by DPI into the material impact of network tariff reassignment for micro-generators in Victoria).

An outcome on this issue was successfully reached toward the end of December. Essentially, just prior to going into ‘caretaker mode’ before the Victorian State election, the then Victorian Energy Minister (Mr Peter Batchelor) wrote to each of the five Victorian distribution businesses asking them not to automatically reassign new micro-generation customers to time of use network tariffs; to provide these customers with the choice of a flat or time-based network tariff; and to provide existing micro-generation customers with the ability to switch back to a flat network tariff, should they believe it is in their financial interest.

This result will broadly ensure that micro-generation customers are not treated differently to regular customer with respect to time of use network and retail tariffs, and should not be worse off due to the fact that sophisticated, time-based tariffs that actually provide an opportunity for cost savings through load shifting do not as yet exist in Victoria.

Given our experience with this process, ATA will continue to contribute to the new Victorian government’s process around the development of appropriate time of use tariff structures that actually work for consumers, and provide the potential to achieve cost reductions in network investment from load shifting, in line with the principles of the smart meter rollout.

Two (2) days equivalent were spent on these additional AMI activities, making a total (with the AER Smart Meter Service Charge Review) of 11 days spent for this reporting period.

**Project Budget Tracking: Vic AMI Program**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
11	20	20	0	0

**1.7 Prime Minister’s Taskforce on Energy Efficiency**

ATA again contributed to a consultation round of the work of the PM’s Taskforce on Energy Efficiency. Subsequent to the Taskforce Report in late 2010, the Federal Government sought to develop a consultative process around a number of high level objectives for energy efficiency nationally – managed by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE).

DCCEE hosted workshops around the country in January and February 2011, to refine these objectives and test many of the recommendations to come out of the Taskforce’s work. ATA attended both the 28<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February workshops in Melbourne to contribute to this process, and followed up with a written submission, that was developed in consultation with ATA’s own Energy Policy Reference Group. This submission is attached to this report.

**Project Budget Tracking: PM Taskforce on Energy Efficiency**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
5	5	8	0	3

## 1.8 Senate Inquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

Given our experience with various policy mechanisms and technical issues and projects related to small, medium and large scale wind energy in Australia, ATA made a submission to the Federal Senate Inquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms. A copy of the submission is attached to this report.

The terms of reference for the inquiry asked that the following three issues be investigated (as well as other issues of relevance):

- Any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms;
- Concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people’s homes;
- The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment and farm income.

ATA responded to each of the above issues, drawing on ATA project experience, our understanding of the *Renewable Energy Target* and *GreenPower* mechanisms, and on the latest scientific questions relevant to each of the above.

ATA’s submission also took the opportunity to advise on the benefits and opportunities of medium scale wind projects in Australia – in particular, that developments of this scale can allow the leveraging of consumer / community investment that can’t be achieved in larger or smaller scale projects; and the opportunity to create greater social acceptability of wind farm development by communities at the larger scale.

### ***Project Budget Tracking: Renewable Energy Target***

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
3	3	13	0	10

## 1.9 Overview of the NEM Course

As per ATA’s application for project #407, two ATA staff were funded to undertake the *Overview of the National Energy Market* course run by the Australian Energy Market Operator.

Due to a high level of interest in this course and associated low vacancies for placements, it was not until the second project period that one ATA staff member, Damien Moyse, could take part in the AEMO course. Damien’s participation took place in Canberra, over two days on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### ***Project Budget Tracking: Intro to NEM Course***

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
2	2	4	0	2

## 1.10 ATA Energy Policy Reference Group

As outlined in our application for project #407, ATA committed to establishing an Energy Policy Reference Group within our membership, to further test and strengthen ATA’s advocacy positions, and in order to educate ATA members on the latest developments in NEM related policy processes and inquiries throughout the country.

Initially, through an ATA member communications, a request was made to members who would be interested in providing feedback on policy issues through the Reference Group. All 31 respondents have been included in the Reference Group communications to date. For ATA it was important that the Reference Group represented a good sample of members across Australia, and this has occurred with at least one member in each state and territory except South Australia.

Our main engagement with the Energy Policy Reference Group during this project period was in seeking feedback on the objectives of the Prime Ministers Taskforce on Energy Efficiency. Copies of the relevant issues papers were distributed to Reference Group members, along with a feedback questionnaire modelled on DCCEE’s feedback questionnaire, in order to obtain additional input on the strategic objectives of the Taskforce’s final report, and to strengthen ATA’s response. Overall, 6 Reference Group members provided specific feedback to the DCCEE issues papers, with these comments being incorporated into ATA’s overall submission to the Department.

### **Project Budget Tracking: Energy Policy Reference Group**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
5	5	10	0	5

## 1.11 National Value of Customer Reliability (AEMO)

In late 2010 / early 2011, AEMO commenced a review of the methodology for determining a National Value of Customer reliability (VCR). VCR is intended to be used for as an investment test for Transmission planning purposes but becomes a proxy value for range of other NEM related value tests.

ATA feel that the extant method of calculating VCR is inadequately detailed and that as an investment test it should use a method with is consistent with cost recovery.

ATA attended and contributed to the following meetings with respect to this process:

- 16th Dec: Attended stakeholder workshop at AEMO (½ day);
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec: Telephone conferences plus other email and phone calls with other consumers regarding submission (½ day);
- January: Research and review in assisting Andrew Nance of St Kitts to develop a formal submission that was signed on to ATA, Australian Council of Social Service and a number of other consumer advocate groups (2 days).

**Project Budget Tracking: AEMO Demand Side Participation**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
3	3	7	0	4

**1.12 Requirements under the Small scale Renewable Energy Scheme (ORER)**

As of December 2010, the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) requires that all small scale wind turbines have to be installed by a Clean Energy Council (CEC) accredited wind turbine installer to qualify for Small scale Technology Certificates.

This has lead the CEC to review their accreditation and installation requirements, which have been found to have gaps that bring into question the certainty with which STCs can be deemed over any period.

ATA are also aware that a number of consumers have been provided sub-standard wind turbine installations in NSW, and have been concerned that many more will come to light over the next few years as long term performance data comes to light.

ATA have significant expertise in wind energy micro-generation and worked with CEC and ORER to influence their development of enforceable minimum standards for small wind turbine installations, to ensure consumers are protected from poor return on their investment with wind turbines that perform to acceptable standards.<sup>3</sup>

During the project period, ATA was appointed to a new committee set up by CEC to input into the above tasks. As a technical advisor to the committee, the ATA prepared for, and attended, a workshop on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, to develop training requirements for small wind turbines installers and standards for wind turbines.

**Project Budget Tracking: Renewable Energy Target**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
3	5	13	0	8

**1.13 Proposal for a Peak Demand Reduction Target Scheme (DRET)**

During the project period, ATA also worked with the Total Environment Centre (TEC), the Consumer Utilities Advisory Centre (CUAC) and other Consumer Roundtable organisations to develop a proposal for Energy Minister, Martin Ferguson, ahead of the March Consumer Roundtable.

At the Minister’s request made at the March Roundtable, ATA subsequently worked with TEC and CALC to refine the proposal for submission to DRET, and specifically ahead of the AEMC’s Demand Side Participation Review – Stage 3. The proposal is supplied with this report.

***Project Budget Tracking: Broader Energy Efficiency Issues***

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total days spent to date</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
2	7	8	0	1

**1.14 Other Committees and Relevant Meetings**

A total of 5.0 additional days were spent during the reporting period, preparing, attending and contributing to the following meetings:

- 1st Dec: Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre’s *Member Interest Group* meeting;
- 8<sup>th</sup>&9<sup>th</sup> Feb: Consumer Roundtable Futures Planning meeting (Melbourne);
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mar: Meeting with Garnaut Review Project Team regarding consumer issues and distribution network management in relation to the Electricity Sector Issues Paper (Paper 8);
- 10<sup>th</sup>&11<sup>th</sup> Mar: Attendance at the Consumer Roundtable on Energy Meeting.

## 2.0 Media Contributions

A total of two (2) days has been allocated to the following media contributions:

### 2.1 Radio:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec: ABC Gippsland *Morning Show with Celine Foenander* – interview regarding Solar Credits and further upcoming changes to the RET.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec: Radio 3MDR – interview regarding electric vehicle technology.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec: ABC 774 Melbourne *Breakfast with Matt Parkinson* – interview regarding electric vehicle technology.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jan: ABC Tropical North Queensland *Breakfast with Meecham Philpott* – interview regarding electricity prices, solar prices and solar technology.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jan: National Radio News – interview regarding the first solar farm in NSW (at Nyngan), the RET and electricity prices.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Feb: ABC News Radio (Drive) – interview regarding smart meter charge increases.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar: Radio 3MDR *Judy Ann and Co* – interview regarding smart meter charge increases.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mar: 612 ABC Brisbane *Phil Smith* – Interview regarding solar feed-in tariffs.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mar: North-West FM *Environmentality* – Interview regarding the benefits of wind and other renewable energy in light of the nuclear crisis in Japan.

### 2.2 Newsprint and Web:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Dec: Wyndham Leader and Wyndham Weekly – article regarding electric vehicles.
- February: EcoGeneration Magazine – comment in article on NSW solar feed-in tariff.
- February: G-Magazine – comments in article on micro wind turbines.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb: *The Plains Producer* – article on solar tips at home.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Feb: *Paper.li* (online) – article on ATA media release on cost of climate change programs.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Feb: Herald Sun – article on solar tips at home.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Feb: Castlemaine Independent (online) – article on ATA media release on cost of climate change programs.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mar: Herald Sun – article on smart meter charge increases.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mar: Choice Magazine and Website – article on solar payback figures by ATA.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mar: ABC Environment Online – Opinion Piece on the future for the solar PV industry in Australia.

### **3.0 Conference Attendance & Speaking Events**

#### **3.1 Conference Attendance:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Energy Efficiency Council – Annual Conference (Sydney, 1 day);
- 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March: SGA Smart Grid forum (Melbourne).

#### **3.2 Speaking events:**

- Nil.

### **4.0 Other Activities**

During the reporting period, ATA's Energy Advocates responded to enquiries from the public, ATA members, businesses and all tiers of government regarding the majority of the policy processes and advocacy issues contained within the aforementioned list, and particularly from the perspective of small-scale renewable generators and individuals and households involved in energy efficiency, demand management and other sustainable investment options in the NEM.

Accompanying this report are copies of any submissions and other relevant material, as outlined above.

Should the Advocacy Panel have any further queries regarding this report or any of the work aforementioned, please do not hesitate to contact Damien Moyse on (03) 9631 5417 ([Damien.Moyse@ata.org.au](mailto:Damien.Moyse@ata.org.au)) or Craig Memery on (03) 9631 5418 ([Craig.Memery@ata.org.au](mailto:Craig.Memery@ata.org.au)).