

12th November 2008



ATA Advocacy Report – Project 302

For the 4-months from July to October 2008

This report outlines advocacy activity undertaken by ATA, under funding from the National Consumers Electricity Advocacy Panel funded project #302. This activity was undertaken for the four-month project period commencing in July and continuing through the end of October 2008.

Advocacy Completed:

- Provided submissions to the following policy inquiries:
 - COAG's review into the *Design Options for an Expanded National Renewable Energy Target Scheme*. ATA strongly supported the proposed RET as a complementary measure to the government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme however advocated that solar hot water and forest biomass be excluded from REC eligibility;
 - The MCE's *SCO National Energy Customer Framework* highlighting the importance of new Rules for Embedded Generation and current discrimination in the retail market to micro-generators;
 - The AEMC's *Review of the Effectiveness of Competition in the Electricity and Gas Retail Markets in South Australia*, highlighting ATA's concerns over the use of customer 'churn' in establishing effective market competition and the need for greater certainty in the process for grid-connected micro-generation systems;
 - The Federal Department of Climate Change's *Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper*. ATA is a strong supporter of the CPRS however highlighted the need for the Government to take account of the significant voluntary market for carbon abatement which is severely threatened by the CPRS in its current design. ATA also made comment in relation to the proposed compensation for Strongly Affected Industries;
 - The Federal Government's Department of Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts' *Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) on the Proposal to Phase-Out Inefficient Incandescent Light Bulbs*. ATA joined with the Total Environment Centre in proposing that there was scope to increase the proposed level of the Minimum Energy Performance Standard (MEPS), thereby further driving lighting efficiency within the market, and highlighted the need for a comprehensive waste management strategy as part of the phase out plan;
 - The Queensland Government's Review of its climate change strategy - *Climate Smart 2050*. ATA advocated for the review to re-visit its current state based feed-in tariff (the *Solar Bonus Scheme*); and highlighted the future employment and industry opportunities in the renewable energy sector from small and medium enterprise and the need for significant investment into education and training in this area.

- Forwarded an application to *Infrastructure Australia* for funding to undertake a research project into the *Network Benefits of Embedded Generation*. ATA strongly believe that further quantitative research needs to be conducted into the potential costs and benefits of increased embedded generation within the NEM in order to assist network planning and add further quantitative weight to the campaign for a national gross metered feed-in tariff.
- Participated (via teleconference) a meeting of the *Consumer Roundtable on Energy* discussing issues and responses to the AEMC's *Review of Energy Market Frameworks in light of Climate Change Policies*. ATA's role was primarily to ensure that the importance of demand management and demand side participation in off-setting the risks from large scale renewable energy was understood by the group and that previous incomplete policy processes by the AEMC relating to demand management and demand side participation should be seen as integral to this new policy review.
- Attended the National Consumer Roundtable on Energy November meeting in Melbourne, discussing the AEMC's *Demand Side Participation Review*, *TEC Rule Change Proposal*, *Review of the Effectiveness of Market Competition in South Australia* and *Review of the Impact on Energy Market Frameworks of Climate Change Policies*; the Federal Government's *Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper* and the associated *Treasury Modelling*; the Victorian and Federal proposed rollout of *Smart Meters*, the potential for consumer input into the *National Hot Water Strategy* and future directions for advocacy and committee representation by the Roundtable.
- Responded to enquiries from public and ATA members providing assistance related to small-scale renewable generation technologies and the policy processes highlighted above.

Accompanying this report are copies of any submissions mentioned above.

Should the Advocacy Panel have any further queries regarding this report or any of the work aforementioned, please do not hesitate to contact ATA's Energy Advocate, Damien Moyse on (03) 9631 5417 or by email Damien.Moyse@ata.org.au.