



# **ATA Advocacy Report – Project #476**

*For the 4-months from 1 July to 31 October 2011*

A report by the  
Alternative Technology Association

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2011

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## 1.0 Introduction

This report outlines advocacy activity undertaken by ATA, under funding from the National Consumers Electricity Advocacy Panel funded project #476. This activity was undertaken for the first four-monthly reporting period in line with the approved funding tranches under the contract – this period commencing at the beginning of July 2011 and continuing through to the end of October 2011.

In line with ATA's approved funding application for project #476, the provision of 80 days of advocacy output was delivered, slightly exceeding the relevant KPI's for this project period. This level of output was achieved across the following policy inquiries and working groups.

ATA provided submissions, working group attendance and general advocacy to the following policy inquiries and working groups. All written submissions are contained within **Appendix A**.

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

#### 1.1.1 *Business Processes and Procedures Working / Reference Group (BPPW/RG)*

ATA's focus in the BPPWG for the 2011/12 grant period was on influencing the continuing development of business processes and procedures for a range of customer service functions delivered by smart meters, in particular relating to:

- remote connection and disconnection;
- accessing and supplying meter data;
- direct load control and supply capacity limiting;
- meter configuration and reconfiguration requirements for consumers with solar PV and other forms of demand side participation;
- enabling and delivering services for home area networks, including HAN devices registration and deregistration;

Prior to the commencement of the 2011/12 period, the working group structure was changed in response to the need to deliver business to business (B2B) services in time for the delivery of new customer services for Victoria's AMI rollout. The BPPWG became a Reference Group, with a Drafting Committee of consultants formed to draft documentation for approval by the Reference Group.

Whilst ATA was pleased to see priority being given to the realisation of smart meter benefits for Victorian consumers under the AMI program, we were concerned by the change to the governance arrangements of this group, as the complexity of the issues being resolved by the BPPWG warranted hands-on involvement in the drafting process by all participants.

In order to ensure that consumer issues were considered during the drafting process, ATA successfully lobbied DRET and the IEC/RMEC for the Consumer HAN/DLC Principles to be upheld as a guiding document during the drafting process.

During the 2011/12 reporting interval, ATA continued our work to gain acceptance of the Consumer HAN/DLC Principles by other stakeholders to attempt to smooth the adoption of these principles as well as to assist non-consumer stakeholders to understand consumer issues in this regard.

In late August, a decision was made by AEMO, the secretariat to the BPPRG, to suspend the work of the BPPRG indefinitely until there is certainty regarding the need for the development of B2B procedures for smart meters nationally.

ATA understand the future of this working group will become clearer in early 2012 following expected formal announcements regarding the future of smart metering in other jurisdictions as well as the outcomes of DTF's review of the Victorian AMI.

Over the course of this reporting period, the ATA participated in a total of three (3) normal meetings of the BPPWG, including pre and post meeting background reading, research and communications as follows:

- 11-13<sup>th</sup> July, AEMO Melbourne (2 of 3 days attended);
- 26-27<sup>th</sup> July, AEMO Melbourne;
- 23<sup>rd</sup> August, Sydney AP, Sydney.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July ATA also participated in the BPPRG public forum in Melbourne. As the sole consumer advocate on this committee during the 2011/12 period, ATA was able to influence the outcome of the work of the BPPRG to better reflect the needs and concerns of consumers.

ATA has found our investment of resources in the BPPRG to be productive, and largely successful from an advocacy perspective, however ultimately the work of the group is subject to numerous externalities and to this end many of the key outcomes will not be known until after the 2011/12 period.

ATA feel that our continued participation in this group has had a positive influence the culture of B2B processes and procedure development in terms of how consumer issues are taken in to account when arriving at decisions.

ATA feel that many of the other stakeholders have learned how to better consider consumer issues and the importance of decisions having a net benefit for consumers as result of our participation.

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

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

**Project Budget Tracking: BPPW/RG**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
6.5	15	-	8.5

### **1.1.2 Other NSMP Related Working Groups and Processes**

#### **National Energy Industry and Consumer Forum (NEICF)**

Following the formal completion of the National Smart Meter Program in April 2011, the steering committee members of this project continued meeting as the National Energy Industry and Consumer Forum (NEICF). The charter of the NEICF is contained in **Appendix B** to this report.

Prior to the formation of this group, ATA successfully negotiated that consumer representation on the NEICF be increased from one member to four members plus one alternate, achieving parity with retailers and distributors, and assisted new consumer reps from ACOSS, CALC, CUAC and QUT to be established.

ATA remained on the NEICF initially as part of our separately funded NSSC member role to guide the transition and assist to establish other consumer representatives until July 2011, and for the 2011/12 remains on this committee as a member in our own right.

Over the course of this reporting period, the ATA participated in a total of three (3) normal meetings of the NEICF including pre and post meeting background reading, research and communications:

- 20<sup>th</sup> July, Phone conference;
- 19<sup>th</sup> August, Melbourne AP, Melbourne;
- 19<sup>th</sup> October, Sydney AP, Sydney.

Additionally, out of sessions meetings included the following:

- 12<sup>th</sup> September, Consumer rep phone conference;
- 15<sup>th</sup> September, Planning meetings (2) for NEICF stakeholder forum, Melbourne;
- 27<sup>th</sup> October, Phone meeting.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September, the NEICF hosted a day long Smart Meter Workshop in Melbourne, attended by up to ten representatives each from consumer organisations, state and federal government, ENA members, ERAA members, and third parties. The intent of the forum was to find gather perspectives of various stakeholders in relation to the future of smart networks in Australia.

An independent report on the workshop is also contained in **Appendix B**.

Following on from this workshop during October, the NEICF members prepared for DRET a statement reflecting a common position regarding the future of smart networks in Australia. A copy of this statement is also contained in **Appendix B**.

### **Consumer Protection and Safety Workstream**

DRET has undertaken to progress a *Consumer Protection and Safety Review* on behalf of SCER to pick up on unresolved consumer protection issues identified in the NSMP and the Vic AMI.

ATA continues to liaise with DRET, providing guidance on various consumer issues in relation to the review. A comprehensive discussion paper on the second stage of this review is expected to be released in December 2012.

### ***Project Budget Tracking: Other NSMP working groups and processes***

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
7.5	7.5	+5	5

## 1.2 Victorian Bushfire Powerline Safety Taskforce (BPST)

In response to the recommendations of its Royal Commission into the 2009 Bushfires, the Victorian Government established the Bushfire Powerline Safety Taskforce (the Taskforce) to consider how to progressively replace the electricity network with technology that reduces the risk of bushfires started by network assets.

The taskforce was also tasked with advising the Victorian Energy Minister on the allocation of the new Victorian Government's \$50 Million Safer Electrical Assets Fund.

Over the course of 2011 the Taskforce commissioned a number of research projects. One was a trial focused on not-network solutions for mitigating bushfire risk, in the form of remote area power supplies (RAPS) for electricity generation for 10 households in Victoria. RAPS generate electricity for the household directly, 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 or dedicated structure on a property.

Importantly, from the broader consumer perspective, RAPS particularly in fringe of electricity grid areas offer the opportunity for substantial savings to end energy consumers in the form of avoided networks costs, potentially totalling hundreds of millions of dollars.

ATA was asked to join Energy Safe Victoria's Bushfire Minimisation Advisory Committee in 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.

ATA was required to pay close attention to matters that have arisen in relation to the RAPS trials, in particular relating to the interpretation of data and conclusions arising from the trial results.

ATA have had to work hard to advocate consumer issues through this process and avoid being sidelined by what has become a heavily industry-dominated process. On the whole, ATA have been disappointed with the resulting policy outcomes.

Due to the challenges faced by ATA in obtaining agreement on key issues, as well as our concerns regarding some of the Taskforce's process issues, ATA's CEO Ian Porter attended most taskforce meetings in place of technical specialist Craig Memery from January 2011 onwards, with Craig maintaining an advisory role and remaining an alternate member of the group.

Ian's time is provided as an in-kind contribution of CEO resources, as per ATA's funding agreement.

The final report of the taskforce, and the taskforce meeting documents, are not available to the public at this time, however ATA have extensive written communications which can be provided on request to substantiate the considerable time invested in this activity.

From July until October 2011, ATA attended a total of five (5) meetings, including preparation, background reading and follow up communications, on the following dates:

- 25<sup>th</sup> July (half day meeting);
- 1<sup>st</sup> August (half day meeting);
- 15<sup>th</sup> August (full day meeting);
- 1<sup>st</sup> September (half day meeting);
- 20<sup>th</sup> September (half day meeting).

ATA also met with DPI on the 18<sup>th</sup> August to express concerns about the Taskforce process.

***Project Budget Tracking: Bushfire Powerline Safety Taskforce***

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
11	15	-	4

### **1.3 Victorian Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Program**

Whilst ATA were waiting for a public announcement to complete the DTF's review of the AMI during the July to October period, there were a number of other AMI related processes that ATA contributed to.

#### **1.3.1 DPI Smart Meter Privacy Review**

The Department of Primary Industries engaged Lockstep Consulting to undertake a review to discover smart meter privacy issues that may result from the AMI program.

At DPI's invitation, ATA met with the consultant in June and had ongoing correspondence during July to provide clarification and guidance around a number of potential consumer privacy issues, particularly as they relate to the technology and services enabled by smart meters.

ATA's involvement in the NSMP aided this significantly, as the NSMP had previously undertaken more extensive work in this space than the AMI program.

On 27<sup>th</sup> July, ATA also participated in a Smart Meter Privacy Impact Assessment workshop, hosted by DPI.

The consultant's final report to DPI is available at:

[http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/138963/Lockstep-DPI-AMI-PIA-Report-1.2.1.pdf](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/138963/Lockstep-DPI-AMI-PIA-Report-1.2.1.pdf)

#### **1.3.2 Processes and Procedures for the Victorian AMI**

Following on from the suspension of activity of the BPPRG, ATA were concerned that progress to develop procedures and processes to enable customer services for smart meters for Victoria had stalled and were slated to be undertaken instead by industry groups without input from consumers.

ATA were also concerned that this work would be done with no formal status given to the Consumer Principles for Home Area Networks and Direct Load Control, or the NSSC-endorsed Access and Contestability Principles.

To discuss and attempt to resolve these issues, ATA met with various stakeholders, including:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> August – Competitive neutrality for smart metering in Victoria (consumer meetings, ATA offices);
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Meeting with DPI to discuss transitioning of processes from NSMP to AMI (DPI, Melbourne);
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Meeting with DRET to discuss concerns regarding the direction of the work of BPPRG in relation to Vic AMI.

**1.3.3 Public Education around Smart Meters**

ATA have also been working with DPI to consider ways to promote the consumer benefits of new features enabled for smart metering, and met with DPI:

- via teleconference on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, regarding public messaging and information about smart meters; and
- on October 25<sup>th</sup>, to discuss public promotion of HAN devices and other tools for consumers made available by smart metering.

**Project Budget Tracking: Vic AMI Program – HAN design and implementation**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
2	15	-	13

**Project Budget Tracking: Vic AMI Program – Other working groups and processes**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
2	15	-	13

## 1.4 Feed-in Tariffs

### 1.4.1 Victorian Premium Feed-in Tariff

Early in grant period, the Victorian Government announced their intention to terminate the existing Victorian premium feed-in tariff, once the 100 MW legislative cap had been reached.

In line with their 2010 Election commitment, it was also intended to commission the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC) in late 2011 to undertake a review of the potential costs and benefits of extending a revised version of the scheme into the future.

Using our database of current installed costs, ATA modelled a number of different scenarios involving a range of installed costs, export rates, discount rates and retail tariffs (both for feed-in and consumption), to try and ascertain their consumer benefit. The ATA also took into account the overall cost on Victorian electricity consumers, given the scheme’s market-based funding.

During the course of this work, in August the Government made a second announcement, stating their intention to legislate a Transitional Feed-in Tariff (TFiT) by November, with the premium feed-in tariff to close to new entrants by the end of September.

Critically, the Government claimed that the proposed TFiT, with a new rate of 25c / kWh for feed-in and having a scheme length of only five years, as an incentive which would see the majority of new solar customers paying off their system within 10 years.

The ATA modelling demonstrated that this claim is false as this payback objective would not be achievable for most consumers under the new TFiT, and in fact, for many consumers would likely be much worse.

Given that no public consultation occurred on the development of the TFiT, the ATA wrote to the Victorian Energy Minister, the Victorian Opposition and the Victorian Greens, to highlight the flaw in the Government’s payback modelling and to advise that the ATA, through its work with our members and the general public, either directly or through Victorian media, could not support the statement that the Government’s claim of less than 10 year payback would be achievable for most consumers.

The ATA conducted significant media on this topic during August and September, and copies of the respective letters are attached to this report.

#### **Project Budget Tracking: Feed-in Tariffs**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
8	15	-	7

## 1.5 Demand Side Participation Advocacy

### 1.5.1 AEMC Demand Side Participation Review

Given our advocacy work on demand side issues in the NEM over recent years, the ATA was appointed to the Steering Committee of Stage 3 of the AEMC’s Demand Side Participation (DSP) Review.

With the review commencing just prior to the end of the previous grant period, the ATA attended the first Steering Committee meeting as part of our previous advocacy grant. As part of Project #476, ATA attended the second Steering Committee meeting in Melbourne on 24<sup>th</sup> October

The main issue of concern to the ATA continues to be the framing of the Stage 3 Review – being primarily about providing greater consumer choice, as opposed to more fundamental barriers to DSP within all levels of the National Energy Market design.

This process will continue to be of focus to ATA throughout 2011/12.

### 1.5.2 AEMC Review of NEM Arrangements for Electric and Natural Gas Vehicles

Given our role on the Steering Committee for Stage 3 of the DSP Review, and given that ATA has two member branches (in Melbourne and Geelong) that are specifically devoted to the topic of electric vehicle (EV) conversions and promotion, we felt it appropriate to provide a brief submission to the AEMC’s review of NEM arrangements for EV and natural gas vehicles. The submission was informed by ATA members with specific knowledge in this field.

ATA’s EV member branches have a solid appreciation of the drivers for EV uptake in particular, and our submission focused on the drivers likely to influence consumer choice in the area of EVs over the coming decade. In particular, the submission considered international and domestic oil prices, battery technology prices and development, and provided reference to useful and current economic modelling that suggests that under some scenarios, EVs have a positive net present value now as compared with internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEs), when valued over time. Many consumers are beginning to understand the long term economics of EVs versus ICEs, with its resultant impact on demand.

ATA’s submission also raised the issue of peak demand on the grid and the increasing need for tariff structures that provide some degree of cost reflexivity and incentive for consumers of EVs and other demand side technologies to consume electricity away from peak times.

#### **Project Budget Tracking: AEMC Demand Side Participation Review**

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
5.5	15	-	9.5

## 1.6 AER Price Comparator Website

Early in grant period, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) commenced consultation on the development of an energy price comparator.

Under the national Retail Law, due to commence on 1 July 2012, the AER is required to develop and operate an online price comparator tool to assist small customers to compare offers. It has been envisaged that the price comparator website will include offers for electricity, gas and dual fuels, and the AER proposed that users could input a variety of information which the website would utilise to generate a list of energy offers available to them.

A number of price comparator-style websites have been in operation at a jurisdictional level over the past few years. Regular feedback from both ATA members and like-minded consumers is that none of these existing price comparator websites provide useful information with respect to:

- retail feed-in tariff offers;
- retail consumption offers linked to feed-in tariff offers; and
- GreenPower offers.

ATA therefore attended a consultation meeting in Melbourne in August to raise these issues, and followed up with a detailed submission on how we believe these existing retail products could effectively be incorporated into a price comparator website.

It is our understanding that at the commencement of the consultation process, the AER did not intend to respond to feed-in tariff and GreenPower retail issues. Subsequent discussions with the AER have since opened the door for these retail products to be included in the price comparator website either on its start date, or during a second round of development in late 2012. ATA will be monitoring this process closely over the remainder of the grant period.

### ***Project Budget Tracking: AER Price Comparator***

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
6	5	+5	4

## 1.7 Energy Efficiency Advocacy

One of the outcomes of the Prime Minister’s Taskforce on Energy Efficiency was the consideration of mandatory disclosure at the point of sale and lease, as a policy vehicle for increasing the energy efficiency of residential dwellings nationally over time.

Throughout August, the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) conducted a number of consultation sessions around the country, providing information regarding the consultant’s preliminary modelling in regards to the policy initiative, and asking for feedback on the modelling and the potential policy mechanism more broadly.

Given that mandatory disclosure could only be implemented through State Government legislation, the consultation sessions were to be hosted by respective State Governments. Initially, the Victorian Government was not supportive of the review, and did not intent to facilitate any consultation in Melbourne. The ATA, along with a number of other interested organisations, successfully lobbied the State Government to facilitate a session in Melbourne in late August.

ATA members have a high degree of experience of energy and water rating of households, given that many of our members have gained sustainability assessor accreditation over the past few years. A number of the aspects of the consultant’s modelling was therefore of interest, and concern, to the ATA in regards to the potential costs and benefits of a mandatory disclosure policy.

The ATA attended both the consultation session in Melbourne and provided a submission to DCCEE, which is attached to this report.

### **Victorian Energy Efficiency Target and ESI**

On 11<sup>th</sup> October, ATA met with Accenture Consulting – the consultant undertaking the review of the inclusion of In Home Displays as part of the expanded Victorian Energy Efficiency Target.

ATA’s experience in the AMI and NSMP proved a valuable contribution to this discussion.

### **One Million Homes**

In response to the new Victorian Government’s election commitment to upgrade Victoria’s existing housing stock to an average of 5 stars (the current average is around 2.5 stars), the ATA, along with a number of other Victorian environmental and social policy organisations, re-established the ‘One Million Homes’ alliance and campaign.

The purpose of the alliance and campaign is to provide coordinated advocacy to the Victorian Government, with a view to establishing an overall policy frame work and the necessary programs to achieve the government’s stated policy objective over the next decade.

During the reporting period, the ATA attend the following meetings and contributed significant previous research and background material to the development of an advocacy document and Victorian Government Budget submission:

- 20<sup>th</sup> July (EV, Melbourne);
- 21<sup>st</sup> September (EV, Melbourne);
- 28<sup>th</sup> September (EV, Melbourne);
- 26<sup>th</sup> October (EV, Melbourne);
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November (EV, Melbourne).

The new 'Liveable Homes' advocacy document and associated Victorian budget submission, prepared as part of this process, are contained in **Appendix C**.

***Project Budget Tracking: Energy efficiency Advocacy***

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
7.5	10	-	2.5

## 1.8 AEMC Rule Change – Economic Regulation of Network Service Providers

In late October, the AEMC gave notices under the relevant provisions of the National Electricity Law (NEL) and National Gas Law (NGL) to commence assessment of a Rule Change proposal received from the AER in relation to the economic regulation of electricity network businesses under the National Electricity Rules and determining the rate of return for gas network businesses under the National Gas Rules.

Subsequently in November, the AEMC also gave notice of a second Rule Change proposal in relation to economic regulation of electricity network businesses only, this time proposed by the Energy Users Association of Australia (EUAA).

Tighter economic regulation of electricity network business is obviously of enormous significance to all consumers via electricity prices. Early in the grant period, ATA became aware of both Rule Change proposals, and undertook to both familiarise ourselves with the proposals' content, and to organise speakers involved with both proposals to present at the November Consumer Roundtable on Energy in Melbourne.

Whilst the due dates for submissions on both proposals are not before the end of November, the ATA intends preparing either an individual submission, or more preferably, to try and facilitate a broader consumer submission, post the November Roundtable. In this regard, ATA spent preparatory time during September and October.

ATA did not envisage these Rule Changes in our application budget for Project #476. However given our understanding of network regulation and our recent history with advocacy in regards to electricity distribution issues<sup>1</sup>, the ATA felt these Rule Changes to warrant advocacy output and coordination across consumer organisations where possible.

### ***Project Budget Tracking: AEMC Rule Change – Economic Regulation of Network Service Providers***

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
3.5	0	+7.5	4

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<sup>1</sup> Note: AER review of AMI 'excluded service charges' in early 2011, and Bushfire Powerline Safety Taskforce advocacy throughout Project #407 and continuing.

## 1.9 ATA Energy Policy Reference Group

ATA is again seeking to engage our Energy Policy Reference Group, comprising ATA members across most States and Territories, in the development of our advocacy work in 2011/12. The idea behind the Reference Group is to both test and strengthen ATA’s advocacy positions, and to educate ATA members on the latest NEM policy developments.

During the first four months of Project #476, ATA internal staff sought to consult with the Reference Group on submissions regarding the following two reviews:

- The AER Price Comparator website; and
- The AEMC Review of NEM arrangement for EVs and NGVs.

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

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
3	10	-	7

## 1.10 Wind Installer Certification

From previous non-Advocacy Panel funded work conducted during the 2010/11 financial year, ATA has become aware of significant performance issues with the installation of small scale wind turbines throughout Australia, and in particular in NSW.

Due mostly to inadequate design and siting, ATA estimates that a large number of existing turbines are currently underperforming in the range of 75 – 90% below the expectations of the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER).

ORER requires 2,500 Net Full Load Hours per year, which is in line with the deemed value of the Small Technology Certificate (STCs) incentive under the Renewable Energy Target. The inadequate design and siting is primarily due to insufficient training of wind energy installers.

This performance issue threatens the long term credibility of the Small Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) and exposes consumers of small wind micro-generation to poor quality.

ATA set aside time and budget in our 2011/12 application to conduct advocacy in regards to this issue and during the first grant period held the following meetings with a view to establishing some momentum for greater training and compliance requirements for small wind installers:

- 15<sup>th</sup> September – Meeting with the Clean Energy Council’s accreditation team (ATA offices);
- 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October – Meetings with wind energy trainers (ATA Offices).

In addition to our advocacy work on wind installer certification, ATA has also needed to conduct some advocacy work on behalf of consumers of small wind micro-generation, in response to the new Victorian Government’s Wind Farm planning policy, introduced in mid 2011.

Despite being intended to restrict the development of large scale wind energy facilities, these new planning rules have had unintended impacts on prospective owners of domestic scale wind turbines.

On this basis, ATA have been in conversation with a number of local communities, the Clean Energy Council, Local and State Governments and the small wind industry, to attempt to understand how to prevent the small wind industry and community renewable energy space in Victoria from being negatively impacted by the new planning laws. It is anticipated that further work will be required in this space in 2012 to advise micro-generation consumers of potential planning constraints.

***Project Budget Tracking: Wind Turbine Installer Certification***

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
2.5	5	-	2.5

**1.11 Other Committees and Relevant Meetings**

A total of two (2) additional days were spent during the reporting period, preparing, attending and contributing to the following meetings:

- 13<sup>th</sup> July – Public forum for AER consultation on the development of Connection Charge Guidelines for accessing the electricity distribution network (AER Melbourne, 0.5 day);
- 27<sup>th</sup> July – Public forum for AER consultation on Network Registration Exemptions and Retail Exemptions (AER Melbourne, 0.5 day);
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August & 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Two meetings with various stakeholders regarding barriers to consumer access to meter data, and possible regulatory approaches to overcoming these barriers (Melbourne, 1.0 day total).

## 2.0 Media Contributions

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

### 2.1 Radio:

Date	Media Outlet	Topic
July 4	3RRR (The Grapevine)	<i>The carbon tax and energy efficiency</i>
July 13	ABC Radio Gippsland (Mornings with Celine Foenander)	<i>The renewable energy market and possibilities for the Latrobe Valley</i>
July 13	3CR (Wednesday Breakfast)	<i>Energy efficiency in the wake of the carbon tax</i>
July 15	ABC local radio (PM)	<i>Consumer technologies to benefit from the carbon tax</i>
July 18	3WBC (What a Wonderful World)	<i>Minimizing the effects of the carbon tax at home and environmental ways to keep warm in winter</i>
July 19	ABC Radio Goulburn Murray (Mornings with Joseph Thomsen)	<i>The carbon tax and energy efficiency</i>
July 28	Radio Australia (Pacific Beat)	<i>The carbon tax and energy efficiency</i>
July 29	3CR (Beyond Zero Emissions)	<i>Victorian AMI Program and the potential of small wind</i>
August 15	Radio Australia (Pacific Afternoons)	<i>Solar feed-in tariffs in Australia</i>
August 17	3KND (Razor Sharp)	<i>The Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
August 17	North-West FM (Environmentality)	<i>The Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
September 5	3RRR (The Grapevine)	<i>The Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
September 27	ABC Radio Broken Hill (Outback Outlook with Chris Jeremy)	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
September 27	ABC Radio Illawarra (Mornings with Nick Rheinberger)	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
September 28	ABC Radio NSW (Afternoons with Fiona Wyllie)	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
October 1	ABC Radio Gold Coast (Weekend Breakfast)	<i>Energy efficiency and solar hot water</i>
October 5	ABC Radio South East NSW (Mornings with Tim Holt)	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>

Date	Media Outlet	Topic
October 6	Herald Sun	<i>Victorian AMI Program – Consumers still missing out benefits</i>
October 6	3AW (Drive)	<i>Victorian AMI Program – Consumers still missing out benefits</i>
October 8	ABC Radio Gold Coast (Weekend Breakfast)	<i>Residential Solar PV</i>
October 12	ABC Radio Upper Hunter NSW (Mornings with Jill Emberson)	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
October 12	3CR (City Limits)	<i>The Victorian AMI Program – Consumers still missing out on benefits</i>
October 18	2SER (The Wire)	<i>The Coalition’s Climate Policy and its impact for consumers</i>

## 2.2 Newsprint and Web:

Date	Media Outlet	Topic
July 13	Castlemaine Independent (online)	<i>Article explaining the carbon tax</i>
July 16	The Weekend Australian	<i>Consumer technology investment after the introduction of the carbon tax</i>
July 20	Shmeco.com	<i>Article explaining the carbon tax</i>
July 31	The Sunday Age (Domain)	<i>Using less energy at home in wake of the carbon tax</i>
August 1	CHOICE (online)	<i>Article on solar PV payback times</i>
August 3	Get Sustainable (online)	<i>Article on scrapping of the WA solar feed-in tariff</i>
August 11	Carbon and Environment Daily (online)	<i>The Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
August 11	Get Sustainable (online)	<i>The Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
August 13	Saturday Herald Sun	<i>ATA concern about a cut to the Victorian feed-in tariff</i>
August 16	The Age	<i>Fears for the scrapping of the Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
August 23	Eco News (online)	<i>Article on a model energy efficient home</i>
August 23	Green Razor (online)	<i>Article on solar PV payback times</i>
September 1	Get Sustainable (online)	<i>Cut to the Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
September 2	Australian Financial Review	<i>Cut to the Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
September 2	Brisbane Times (online)	<i>Solar feed-in tariffs generally</i>
September 2	Climate Spectator (online)	<i>Cut to the Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Media Outlet</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 2	Carbon and Environment Daily (online)	<i>Cut to the Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
September 3	Saturday Age	<i>Cut to the Victorian solar feed-in tariff</i>
September 16	South Coast Register (NSW)	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
September 23	Climate Spectator	<i>ATA support for Victorian community wind farms</i>
September 26	Castlemaine Independent (online)	<i>ATA support for Victorian community wind farms</i>
September 26	Newcastle Herald	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
September 27	Ballarat Independent (online)	<i>ATA support for Victorian community wind farms</i>
September 27	Midland Express	<i>ATA support for Victorian community wind farms</i>
September 27	Green Razor (online)	<i>ATA support for Victorian community wind farms</i>
September 28	Braidwood Times (NSW)	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
October	CAPtions Article	<i>Article covering ATA's 2010/11 Grant Project #407</i>
October 3	Country Leader, Tamworth	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
October 3	The Young Witness (NSW)	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
October 3	Western Advocate (NSW)	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
October 3	The Hunter Valley Town and Country Leader	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
October 7	Yass Tribune	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>
October 24	Newcastle Herald	<i>Potential of small wind and community renewable energy in regional NSW</i>

### 3.0 Other Activities

#### 3.1 Conference Attendance & Speaking Events

A total of two (2) days was spent for the following conference attendance and speaking events for the grant period:

##### 3.1.1 Conference Attendance:

- 31<sup>st</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> November – Ausgrid Smart Grid Symposium, Silverwater.

##### 3.1.2 Speaking Events:

- 30<sup>th</sup> August – Presentation on smart meter impacts and opportunities to University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age, Chadstone.

#### 3.2 Information Sharing & Advice

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 in regards to energy pricing.

##### *Project Budget Tracking: Information Sharing & Advice*

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
5	15	-	10

#### 3.3 Professional Development (In-Kind)

Craig Memery attended the Energy Distribution Pricing Masterclass hosted by the Consumer Action Law Centre on August 24<sup>th</sup> in Melbourne.

<i>Days spent during period</i>	<i>Total Days Allocated</i>	<i>Adjustments</i>	<i>Days Remaining</i>
1	5	-	4

### **3.4 Project Management, Administration and Reporting (In-Kind)**

In line with our application budget, ATA spent three (3) days on project management and reporting for Project #476 during the first four months of the grant period. These were provided in-kind, in line with our funding agreement.

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)).