



Mr David Bremner
Executive Officer
National Consumers Electricity Advocacy Panel
PO Box 43
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Dear David

Re: Request for comments
A structured approach to the allocation of funding

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the proposed advocacy agenda for 2007-08. As we indicated in our response to your earlier paper, we are generally supportive of the proposed 'structured' approach. We will take this opportunity to remark that the agenda is rather over-full. While the scope of interest and work for an organisation like ACOSS varies dramatically over the range of issues and tasks, they are collectively formidable.

With regard to the proposed list and priorities, and our sense of potential impacts on low income and disadvantaged consumers and potential for advocacy to affect outcomes, we have suggested a smaller list. We understand that the Panel has a view to a broader range of consumers.

We will suggest that the Panel could and should make some allowance for research, capacity building and advocacy in the converging areas of energy efficiency, demand side response and carbon pricing, whether specifically in the context of work mandated by the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) through its National Framework for Energy Efficiency (NFEE), or more generally. We are firmly of the view that the National Electricity Market will be affected by developments in these areas, that policy responses will move quickly and that work ought to be set in train in anticipation of consequences for consumers.

Yours sincerely
Australian Council of Social Service

Tony Westmore
Senior Policy Officer (Electricity)

National Electricity Consumers Advocacy Panel
Priorities for work in 2007-08

- A MCE Retail Policy Working Group
- A MCE National review of energy Community Service Obligations
- A MCE National mandated roll out of smart meters
- A AEMC Review of the effectiveness of competition
- A MCE 2006 legislative package
- A MCE 2007 legislative package
- A MCE Review of network incentives for distributed generation and demand side response
- A MCE National Electricity Rules
- A MCE Energy efficiency, demand side response, carbon pricing**
- B AER Develop guidelines for electricity transmission network regulation
- B AER Develop guidelines for electricity distribution network regulation
- C AER Preparations for transmission price resets in 2008/9
- C AER Preparations for distribution price resets in 2008/9
- ? AEMC Rule changes – as they occur