

Centre for Credit and Consumer Law Griffith University

ELECTRICITY REFORM ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR RESIDENTIAL USERS AND SMALL BUSINESS*

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Centre for Credit and Consumer Law (CCCL) is seeking members for two committees on electricity issues and reforms that impact on residential users and small business.

The Committees will provide a direct link between the Electricity Researcher Advocate position at the Centre for Credit and Consumer Law and community sector groups, regional electricity councils and other relevant peak bodies working with residential users and small business.

The work of the Committees will support the general mandate of CCCL to promote the attainment of a fairer, safer, and more efficient marketplace, particularly for low income and vulnerable consumers. Specifically, the Committees will promote the interests of small end-users in Queensland in relation to energy matters.

ROLE OF COMMITTEES

To provide advice on electricity issues and to share grass roots consumer feedback from residential and small business users perspective on:

- Systemic issues related to electricity
- Policy direction at a State level and in relation to the National Electricity Market
- Feedback on research projects
- Feedback on written submission prepared by the researcher/advocate
- Feedback on the consultative structures in which committee members participate
- Feedback on development of a newsletter update to be sent to key peak organisations in Queensland on electricity matters

COMMITTEES

Committee 1: NEM/FRC Committee

Coverage: Policy, Full Retail Competition and National Electricity Market

Members will be drawn from:

Queensland Consumers Association

SE Regional Electricity Council

Peak welfare organisation

Welfare organisation

Environmental organisation

Electricity expert

Committee 2: Rural and Regional Energy Network Group

Coverage: Network and Rural and Regional Issues

Members will be drawn from:

Regional Electricity Council

Regional and rural community network group

Peak welfare organisation

Peak small business or farming body**

Environmental organisation

Electricity expert

MEMBERSHIP

Nominations are sought for members who demonstrate the following qualities:

- Capacity to represent a particular body of residential users or small business views and interests. Members might be individuals or drawn from community organisations or peak bodies that represents a particular client or interest group.
- Good networks in their sector.
- Previous experience on other advisory committees
- Sufficient time to participate in bi-monthly meetings
- Preparedness to respond to requests for feedback from the Energy Researcher Advocate on short notice

In addition, an electricity expert is sought for each committee. Because of the specialised nature of electricity an electricity expert will assist with advising non-expert members on the committees. Expertise can either be in electrical engineering (supply issues) and/or economics/pricing or a related field.

Limit: There shall be no more than 6 members on any committee.

COMMITMENT

Commitment

Meetings

The Committees meet every two months. The meetings are held at the CCCL offices and/or via teleconference. The meetings are approximately 1.5 hours. There will be one face to face meeting.

Proposed tenure

Commencement date of November/December 2006 for a period of 8 months until June 30th, 2007.

Support for the Committee

Reasonable support will be offered in relation to committee meetings. The Energy Researcher Advocate will act as Secretariat for meetings.

Minutes from each committee will be available to all members and information sharing and liaison is encouraged. A short newsletter will be published bi-monthly capturing key activities in the energy sector in Queensland in relation to residential users and small business.

Committee Members will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses:

- Reimbursement for parking
- Reimbursement for fuel or kilometres travelled to attend meetings
- Payment for accommodation and travel expenses associated with face to face meetings
- Other costs where negotiated

Confidentiality

It is understood that members will protect and maintain confidentiality where a member of the Advisory Committee requests information be treated as confidential.

Nomination: Individuals can either self-nominate or forward a suggestion for nomination to the Energy Researcher Advocate at t.bathgate@griffith.edu.au based on the above criteria.

Nominations should be received by Monday the 20th of November. The committees will commence in November 2006 (Committee 1) and December 2006 (Committee 2) respectively. They will meet bi-monthly thereafter until the 30th of June 2007.

*** Users of power under 100 megawatt hours per annum**