

22nd December 2006

Dear Panel members,

Re: Advocacy Panel Project No. 210 - Continuation of funding to build research and advocacy capacity

Please find enclosed the first report of the above named project to be submitted to the Panel as part of the funding agreement. The report also gives a progress report on project 213 - Advocacy on behalf of small consumers on the implementation of FRC for electricity in Queensland.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Tenzin Jane Bathgate
Ph: (07)33426038
t.bathgate@griffith.edu.au

FUNDING REPORT 1 - PROJECT 210: for period 8th September, 2006 to 22nd December, 2006

MILESTONES	DATES	OUTCOMES	COMMENTS
-------------------	--------------	-----------------	-----------------

MILESTONES	DATES	OUTCOMES	COMMENTS
<p>Submissions</p> <p>Submission to Energy Competition Committee (ECC): Electricity Full Retail Competition: Submission on FRC Electricity, Legal and Regulatory Framework, Natasha Leigh</p> <p>Submission to the National Electricity Consumers Advocacy Panel: A structured approach to the allocation of the Panels funding budget. Joint consumer submission (10 signing organisations)</p> <p>Submission to Energy Competition Committee: Electricity Full Retail Competition: Submission on Energy Ombudsman Bill, Charter and Energy Ombudsman Advisory Council, Catriona Lowe</p>	<p>8/09/2006</p> <p>19/09/2006</p> <p>6/10/2006</p> <p>3/11/2006</p>	<p>FRC related Submissions resulted in increased likelihood of improvements to the legislation, regulation and codes from a consumer perspective.</p>	<p>The Submissions to the Energy Competition Committee are part of an ongoing response to the FRC implementation process in Queensland. The Submissions undertaken by Natasha Leigh and Catriona Lowe have been previously reported on as part of application 213. As previously discussed we have had difficulty getting experts, apart from Karen Chalmers-Scott, to attend the stakeholder meetings. However, experts have been instrumental in writing two key submissions.</p>

<p>Submission to the Energy Competition Committee: Electricity Full Retail Competition. Final Electricity Code and Contracts, Dr Tenzin Jane Bathgate (see attached)</p> <p>Submission to Advocacy Panel re Responses to Draft Report on Responses by Interested Parties to the Funding Criteria and Funding Application Guidelines</p>	<p>22/12/2006</p>		
<p>Letters of interest</p> <p>Letter of endorsement Queensland Consumer Association to Queensland Competition Authority re Energex's application for additional capital expenditure</p> <p>Letter of endorsement to MCE Secretariat re Victorian consumer advocacy submission on Retail Policy Working Group Paper 1.</p> <p>Letter to Commissioner for Fair Trading, Queensland</p> <p>Letter to Minister for Energy</p>	<p>24/11/2006</p> <p>18/12/2006</p> <p>6/12/2006</p> <p>8/12/2006</p>		<p>Letters to the Commissioner of Fair Trading, Minister for Energy and Chair of ECC were about following up issues not fully addressed through the ECC/FRC</p>

and Mines, Queensland			consultation process.
Letter to Chair, ECC re stakeholder consultation process, Queensland	8/12/2006		
Committee			
Revised CCCL NEM/FRC Advisory Committee	27/11/2006	Establishment of new committees. The FRC/NEM committee has a full compliment of members. We are still seeking a full compliment of members for the Rural/Network Advisory Committee.	New Terms of Reference for these committees were reviewed and updated following the conclusion of the last Advisory Committee Term (see attached). The Committee was divided into two new committees to reflect the difference in focus and need between rural/regional Queensland and metropolitan Queensland.
Revised CCCL Rural/Network Advisory Committee	11/12/2006		
Meetings			
Pre-submission all day FRC stakeholder consultations organised by the Energy Competition Committee (Queensland) to discuss Electricity Code, regulations and legislation in relation to FRC	12/09/2006 27/09/2006 03/11/2006 29/11/2006		Elissa Freeman from the Public Interest Advocacy Centre kindly offered to attend an ECC/FRC stakeholder meeting on the 3 rd of November to provide information on the NSW experience.
Meeting with Tru Energy, Melbourne	2/10/2006		
Meeting with Catriona Lowe, CLCV.	2/10/2006		
Meeting with Minister for the Department of Mining and	27/10/2006	Meeting with Minister occurred on Minister's initiative to discuss	This meeting is the first of its kind. The Minister is a new Minister.

Energy, Geoff Wilson, in conjunction with the Queensland Consumers Association.		FRC and outline his future willingness to meet with consumer groups and other stakeholders.	
Ongoing teleconferences in relation to FRC with Expert consultants (Project 213)	October-December 2006		
Members of NEMCHAT Roundtable	Ongoing	One notable meeting was the opportunity to provide a joint oral submission to the Reliability Panel (teleconference with consumer advocates) on the 22/11/2006	
Energy competition consultants (Price Waterhouse Coopers)	18/9/2006 9/11/2006	Area retailer issue Uniform tariff	
Meeting with senior Department of Mines and Energy representatives in conjunction with Queensland Consumers Association	14/12/2006	Improved communication and increased liaison with the Department on consumer/energy matters	This is the first opportunity that CCCL has had to meet with senior officials on FRC and related matters including the uniform tariff arrangements.
Meeting with Queensland Competition Authority in conjunction with Queensland Consumers Association	15/12/2006	Discussions on the proposed membership for the consumer consultative committee established under the Electricity Industry Code.	

Managing Consultancy FRC (Project application 213)	Ongoing		The ECC stakeholder meetings are still proceeding. When they are concluded in early 2007 this project will be completed.
Conferences/Classes			
Roundtable (NEM) Master class on retail, Melbourne	3/10/2006	Capacity building.	This class was very helpful.
Presentation	29/11/2006	Powerpoint presentation 'It's all so complicated' What do Queensland Consumers and their advocates think about FRC?' (see attached)	Presentation to various Queensland government representatives, retailers and representatives of the Energy Competition Committee on findings of research with Queensland consumers and advocates in order to inform the Queensland Government's community education process on FRC.
Articles	9/11/2006 2/11/2006	Network member update for 'On the Wire' Newsletter.	
Research Project	December 2006	The planning of the rural and regional consultations is underway. An ethics application is being drafted.	The Rural/Network Advisory Committee has given initial feedback on the planning and scope of this project.

<p>Media Radio interview</p>	<p>2/11/2006</p>	<p>ABC 612 Brisbane (Brisbane) Drive on what consumers could expect with the introduction of FRC.</p>	
<p>Other We moved offices in September from South Bank Campus to Nathan Campus, Griffith University.</p>			