

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007



## ATA Advocacy Report – Project 223 For the 3-months from January – March 2007

This report outlines advocacy activity undertaken by ATA, under funding from the National Consumers Electricity Advocacy Panel funded project #223. This activity was undertaken for the three-month project period commencing January until the end of March 2007. A second report under project 223 will be provided at the end of the subsequent three-month period, on completion of the project.

### **Advocacy completed:**

- Provided a submission to the Ministerial Council on Energy's Retail Policy Working Group National Framework for Distribution and Retail Regulation Working Paper 2 (in conjunction with the Total Environment Centre)
- Provided a submission to the Victorian Department of Primary Industry's *Metering For Electric Off Peak Heating* Discussion Paper, arguing for metering which favours the connection of small-scale embedded generators to the distribution network, and allow for feed-in tariffs to be paid on total production from the generators
- Provided input into the CUAC-coordinated response from consumer advocates to the Victorian Department of Primary Industry's discussion paper: *Metering For Electric Off Peak Heating*
- Assisted with the research of, and appeared in, and ABC Catalyst special on microgeneration, to appear on ABC TV in early May
- Attended the Victorian Convergence on the Global Sustainability Emergency on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, hosted by Friends of the Earth
- Developed the scope and a research proposal for an examination of the applicability of small-scale (domestic) wind turbines in urban Melbourne. Secured external funding to undertake research this research, recruited for the position continuing to manage the research. This project is scheduled to conclude at the end of June 2007
- Provided a submission to the Prime Minister's joint government-business task group on emissions trading issue paper, calling for early action, the auctioning of permits and any emissions trading scheme to be part of a host of measures which also include adequate support for small-scale renewable energy
- Presented a seminar at the Sustainable Living Festival on GreenPower and renewable energy, and the implications for home-owners
- Presented at a Moonee Valley City Council community forum for on the benefits of grid-connected solar and the opportunities for rebates and subsidies available to homeowners

- Provided input into the Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre (CUAC) submission to the Victorian Department of Primary Industry discussion paper on the cost of capital financing for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)
- Provided a submission to the Government of South Australia's discussion paper: *South Australia's Feed-In Mechanism for Residential Small-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installations* calling for enhanced provisions for investors in solar technology, including the adoption of gross production metering, longer timeframes for feed-in tariff eligibility and a higher feed-in rate than proposed in order to see any enhanced take-up of the technology
- Assisted with the development of the CUAC-coordinated response to the Victorian Essential Services Commission (ESC) paper *Small Scale Licensing Framework: Draft Recommendations*
- Commenced the supervision of research into post-consumer experiences with solar photovoltaic electricity, specifically to draw out correlations between consumers undertaking energy efficiency and energy conservation measures as a result of their investment in renewable energy. This research will continue over the next couple of month, with a completion date set for mid-June
- Attended the Business Council for Sustainable Energy's Clean Energy Conference in Melbourne on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007
- Oversaw the research and publication in *ReNew* of a number of articles of interest to end-users of small-scale renewable energy, specifically surrounding the proliferation of carbon off-set programs, the efficiency and application of heat pumps for heating and cooling, and the array of GreenPower programs on the market and their relative merits.
- Attended the Advocacy Panel-funded National Electricity Market Consumers Roundtable on 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007, continuing capacity-building of consumer-representative organisations. Topics covered include the impact of a smart meter roll-out across the NEM on consumers, a discussion of the Retail Policy Working Group process and progress, the Productivity Commission Inquiry into consumer policy and a presentation from Rajat Sarawat and Scott Stacey from the AEMC on the review of effectiveness of competition in energy markets, as well as discussion of ongoing joint advocacy for small consumers in the National Electricity Market
- Assisted the Business Council for Sustainable Energy with the production of two booklets: a consumer introduction to solar photovoltaic technology, and a maintenance guide for the safe ongoing care of small-scale renewable energy systems
- Respond to enquiries from public and ATA members, answering both specific grid- connection related queries from members and installers, as well as providing assistance with broader enquiries related to small-scale renewable generation technologies

Accompanying this report are copies of all of the submissions mentioned above. Should the Advocacy Panel have any further queries regarding this report or any of the work mentioned with, don't hesitate to contact ATA's Energy Policy Manager, Brad Shone, on (03) 9631 5406 or by email [Brad.Shone@ata.org.au](mailto:Brad.Shone@ata.org.au)