

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007



## ATA Advocacy Report – Project 223

For the 3-months from April – June 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 April until the end of June 2007.

### **Advocacy completed:**

- Provided a submission to the Australian Energy Market Commission's *Draft Statement of Approach in the Review of the effectiveness of competition in the gas and electricity retail markets*, jointly with Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre Ltd, Victorian Council of Social Service, and St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria
- Presented at the BCSE *Sustainable Energy 2007* National Conference on community-based initiatives and structural / regulatory impediments to their implementation
- Participated in the National Consumers Energy Roundtable teleconference on the 24<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the exposure draft of the National Electricity Rules (distribution), the smart meter stakeholder working group update, and issues/plans for the June Roundtable
- Secured funding for a project officer to undertake a research project highlighting the impediments to the development and implementation of community-based initiatives designed to address issues of supply constraint for rural communities. Recruited and filled the position, and commenced overseeing the research in early June, with completion expected in August
- Provided a submission to the Victorian Department Sustainability and Environment and Department of Primary Industries' *Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Scheme* Issues Paper, calling for a robust scheme in order to achieve the stated goals
- Presented at the Yea *Global Cooling* Community Conference on climate change, outlining the possibilities of renewable to address supply concerns in rural communities, related regulatory impediments, and opportunities in a move towards federal regulation of the National Electricity Market
- Completed the Business Council for Sustainable Energy project on 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

- Met with representatives from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, a range of parliamentarians and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the implementation of feed-in tariffs in Victoria
- Attended the Advocacy Panel-funded National Consumers Energy Roundtable on 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007, continuing capacity-building of consumer-representative organisations. Topics covered included climate change issues and carbon pricing impacts on retail prices, the Retail Policy Working Group's Composite Paper, including a presentation from Samantha Silver from DITR, Australian Energy Market Commission's review of the effectiveness of competition, COAG's review of community service obligations, and strategic planning for the Roundtable going forward
- Attended the Climate Action Network Australia conference - Ministerial Debate *How Can We Turn Down the Heat? Climate Change, Global Poverty, National & International Responses* at Parliament House, involving Senator Christine Milne, Senator Lynne Allison and Peter Garrett, MP
- Provided a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry and Resources *Inquiry into the development of the non-fossil fuel energy industry in Australia: Case study into selected renewable energy sectors*
- Attended the Sustainability Victoria *Solar Cooling Workshop* with Dr Hans-Martin Henning, the Operating Agent for the Solar Cooling task under the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Solar Heating and Cooling program, outlining international developments in solar cooling and possibilities in the Australian market
- Managed the production of an ATA research report into the applicability of small-scale wind energy in urban areas, produced for Sustainability Victoria
- Provided a submission, along with the Total Environment Centre and the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW to the Ministerial Council on Energy's commissioned report by NERA Consulting on *Network Incentives for Demand Side Response and Distributed Generation*
- Completed the supervision of a research report 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 findings of this research are due to be published in July
- Presented a seminar at the Building and Home Improvement Expo on GreenPower and renewable energy, and the implications for home-owners
- Oversaw the completion of research and subsequent publication in *ReNew* of a buyers' guide to small-scale wind turbines

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)