

TasCOSS National Electricity Market Consumer Advocacy Project (No. 245)

Project Report for period: April to June 30 2008

This project, involving research and advocacy on national and jurisdictional electricity issues on behalf of Tasmanian domestic consumers (end users), commenced with funding from the Panel in July 2006, and has continued into 2007-08 on an interim basis. This report is the final for the 2007-08 year, and covers the period April to 30 June 2008.

Participation in the national NEM consumer advocacy network

TasCOSS has continued to play an active role, as the only Tasmanian participant, in the national network of electricity consumer advocates coordinated by the Consumer Action Law Centre. This has involved attendance at a meeting of the National Consumers' Roundtable on Energy (the Roundtable) in Melbourne in June. At that meeting, the Roundtable heard presentations from, and held discussions with, invited guests including representatives from the AEMC (on its demand side participation review); and the Chair of the MCE's Retail Policy Working Group (on its National Framework for Regulating Electricity & Gas (Energy) Distribution & Retail Services to Customers Policy Response Paper).

TasCOSS also participated in a teleconference with other members of the National Consumers' Roundtable in May.

Liaison with Tasmanian representative on MCE policy working groups

In the reporting period TasCOSS met with the Tasmanian representative on the MCE Retail Policy Working Group (RPWG) and Smart Meter Working Group (SMWG) from the Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources. We met to discuss the RPWG working papers, consultation process, and proposed national regulatory details.

NEM Climate Change Master Class

Attended a Master Class on Climate Change and the NEM in Melbourne in June which examined climate change and responses and their likely effect on consumers. Topics included policy papers and timetable, demand side participation, distributed generation, feed-in tariffs, MRETS and emissions trading schemes: models and the likely impact on energy prices.

Tasmanian Energy Regulator's Customer Consultative Committee

TasCOSS attended the regular May meeting of the Tasmanian Energy Regulator's Energy Customer Consultative Committee and received updates on the progress of the public benefit assessment of full retail competition in electricity in Tasmania, and other activities of the Regulator's office.

Public Benefit Assessment for Electricity Retail Competition in Tasmania – Draft Report

The Tasmanian Energy Regulator released his draft report on the Public Benefit Assessment for Electricity Retail Competition in Tasmania in May and called for submissions from interested parties. TasCOSS has been studying the Draft Report, consulting with its members and preparing a response. The deadline for submissions was extended by the Regulator, on advice from the State Treasurer, until July 4. TasCOSS will include a copy of our response in our next report to the Advocacy Panel.

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