

7th July 2008



ATA Advocacy Report – Project 246

For the 3-months from April to June 2008

This report outlines advocacy activity undertaken by ATA, under funding from the National Consumers Electricity Advocacy Panel funded project #246. This activity was undertaken for the three-month project period commencing in April and continuing through the end of June 2008.

Advocacy completed:

- Provided two submissions to the Australia 2020 Summit – on the topics of *Climate* and *Industry* – calling for national progressive and effective feed-in tariffs for renewable microgeneration.
- Provided a submission to the 'Wilkins Review' – the *Strategic Review of Climate Change Programs*, calling for a continuation of complementary measures to address market failures and enable the necessary take-up of renewable energy, with a particular focus on the role of feed-in tariffs in stimulating the uptake of renewable microgeneration.
- Attended (via teleconference) numerous weekly meetings of the *Technical Sub-Group* of the Queensland *Solar Bonus Scheme Reference Group* (solar feed-in tariff), discussing technical issues in the transition to a state-based feed-in tariff. ATA's role was primarily to ensure that the views of small-scale renewable energy generators were considered in the discussions and decision of the sub-group.
- Attended (via teleconference) numerous weekly meetings of the *Operational Sub-Group* of the Queensland *Solar Bonus Scheme Reference Group* (solar feed-in tariff), discussing technical issues in the transition to a state-based feed-in tariff. ATA's role was primarily to ensure that the views of small-scale renewable energy generators were considered in the discussions and decision of the sub-group.
- Provided a submission on the South Australian proposed energy efficiency target, the *Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme*. In it, ATA welcomed the initiative, acknowledging the high levels of success achieved internationally, and providing further detailed comment on thresholds, energy efficiency measures, priority groups, targets and compliance and reporting.
- Attended the TEC *Price Cap, Revenue Cap and Total Factor Productivity* forum in Sydney, examining the advantages and disadvantages of the various forms of network regulation for demand management and the long-term interests of consumers.
- Participated in the *National Consumer Roundtable on Energy* teleconference on the 22nd May to discuss common issues of concern for energy advocates in the energy market reform process.
- Attended a discussion with Dr Gill Owen (UK) on appropriate energy market regulation for consumers, smart meter roll-out costs and benefits and forms

of economic regulation for energy networks, comparing local and international perspectives.

- Provided a submission to the Australian Energy Market Commission's *Review of Demand-Side Participation in the National Electricity Market Stage 2: Issues Paper*, focusing on Network Access and Connection Arrangements, with a specific focus on the barriers confronted by small-scale renewable energy proponents.
- Provided a submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission's *Interval Meter Reassignment Requirements Consultation Paper*, calling for a greater clarification of the definition of ToU tariffs, whether Critical Peak Pricing is included under this definition, and the ability of networks to introduce demand tariffs under this regime.
- Attended the National Consumer Roundtable on Energy June meeting in Melbourne, discussing the AEMC Demand Side Participation Review, the RPWG Composite Paper, the Standing Committee of Officials' *National Framework for Regulating Electricity and Gas (Energy) Distribution and Retail Services to Customers*, and the federal Government's process on energy efficiency.
- Attended and presented at the National Consumer Roundtable's *Climate Change* Masterclass in Melbourne on the 23rd of June, My presentation covered issues surrounding distributed generation and the NEM, with a focus on the potential and international experience of feed-in tariffs in delivering low-cost renewables on a large scale.
- Participated in the ACIL Tasman analysis into gaps and overlaps in advocacy in the electricity and gas markets, on behalf of the Advocacy Panel.
- Presented at the Murrindindi Shire *Sustainability Expo* on the interaction between renewable energy and the national electricity market, including grid access arrangements, rebates and the impact of the energy market reform process.
- Published and distributed the fourth and fifth *ATA Feed-in Tariff* e-bulletins providing an update on developments in feed-in tariffs nationally and internationally.
- Responded 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 any 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