

8th January 2008



ATA Advocacy Report – Project 246

For the 3-months from October to December 2007

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 October and continuing through the end of December 2007.

Advocacy completed:

- Provided input into a joint submission to the Market Operator Working Group's Consultation Paper on Governance Arrangements for the Proposed Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), developed for consideration by the Ministerial Council on Energy and Standing Committee of Officials. The submission called for full government ownership of the AEMO, with the organisation's Market Operations Panel to be given similar power and functions as NEMMCO's Participatory Advisory Committee.
- Provided a joint submission (with the Total Environment Centre and the Ethnic Communities' Council) to NERA Economic Consulting's paper entitled 'Revised Demand Side Response and Distributed Generation Case Studies', prepared for the Network Policy Working Group of the Ministerial Council on Energy. In the submission we questioned many of the assumptions made in the case studies on large-scale roll-out of PV, and supported many of the assumptions made in the section on Smart Meter Roll-out.
- Participated in the National Consumers Roundtable teleconference to discuss issues surrounding the Phase 2 of the DITR Smart Meter Cost Benefit Analysis process, leading in to a series of meetings conducted by DITR around the country.
- Attended the 'Phase 2 of the National Smart Meter Cost Benefit Analysis' Consultation day on Wednesday 3 October, conducted by the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.
- Attended the Australian Wind Energy Association's national conference and provided input into the session on small-scale wind turbines in urban environments.
- Attended the National Consumers' Roundtable on Energy's October meeting. Presented a session on pricing principles and the impacts of tariff changes and fixed charges on owners of grid-connected renewable energy systems.
- Presented a session on the impact for consumers of emissions trading and federal regulatory changes at the 1st National Save Water Save Energy Expo in Melbourne on Friday 19 October.
- Provided comment in the form of a submission to the Australian Energy Market Commission's Review of the Effectiveness of Competition in Electricity and Gas Retail Markets in Victoria (First Draft Report). In the submission, ATA highlighted the failure of the competitive market to provide a suitable

environment for the grid-connection of renewable energy, and as such called into question the findings of the Review.

- Provided a submission to the Victorian Government's examination of the transition of VRET into an expanded MRET, calling for additional measures to address the failure of VRET or MRET to address the lack of incentives for small-scale renewables such as roof-top solar PV.
- Attend an update meeting on the progress of the development of the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET) scheme, hosted by the Victorian Government, providing feedback on the possible impact of such a scheme on energy efficiency programs and small-scale renewable energy generators.
- Provided input into a joint submission by Victorian consumer representatives into the Cost Benefit Analysis of Smart Metering and Direct Load Control - Phase 1 Reports for the Ministerial Council on Energy's Smart Meter Working Group.
- Provided a submission to Victoria's Department of Primary Industries' development of the Criteria for the Assessment of Fair and Reasonable Feed-in Tariff Offers. In the submission, ATA calls for clarification on a number of ambiguous points as well as the removal of the ability for retailers to link the surrender of Renewable Energy Certificates with retail contracts.
- Attended Sustainability Victoria's 'Next Steps' discussion on the development of a feed-in tariff for renewable energy in Victoria. Continued the call for a mandated feed-in tariff, a requirement for the government to meet their election commitments.
- 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.
- Continued meeting with both representatives from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries and a range of parliamentarians to discuss the implementation of feed-in tariffs in Victoria.

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