

10<sup>th</sup> October 2007



## ATA Advocacy Report – Project 246

For the 3-months from July – September 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 July and continuing through the end of September 2007.

### Advocacy completed:

- Provided a submission to the *National Framework for Non-Economic Distribution and Retail Regulation* consolidated paper, prepared for the Retail Policy Working Group by Allens Arthur Robinson. This submission concentrated on the interface between distributors and small embedded generators, and advocated for clearer contractual arrangements between these parties
- Contributed to a composite table of comments on the Policy Working Group's *National Framework for Non-Economic Distribution and Retail Regulation* consolidated paper, along with a coalition of consumer organisations which form part of the National Consumers Roundtable
- Oversaw the commencement, undertaking and near-completion of 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 (report in final draft stage)
- Participated in the National Consumers Energy Roundtable teleconference on the 29<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the Retail Policy Working Group papers, the proposal for a national roll-out of smart meters and the potential agenda and date for the next National Consumers Energy Roundtable
- Oversaw the finalisation, and facilitated the launch of ATA's research paper into the applicability of small-scale wind turbines in urban areas of Victoria.
- Compiled a paper on consumer responses to retail price volatility for the upcoming Victorian Council of Social Services' journal *Just Policy*.
- Presented at the *Renewable Energy and Regional Australia* conference in Bendigo, on community-based energy initiatives in Victoria and structural / regulatory impediments to their implementation
- 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

- Participated in the Victorian Department of Primary Industries' stakeholder forum into the development of a feed-in tariff for small-scale renewable energy in Victoria. This forms stage 2 of a two-stage process to see premium tariffs introduced into Victoria.
- Attended the public consultations on the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Bill 2007* and emissions trading, conducted by the Australian Greenhouse Office and the Department of the Environment and Water Resources in Melbourne on Tuesday 28 August 2007
- Negotiated and facilitated the final stages of ATA's research report into post-consumer experiences with solar photovoltaic electricity with the report's author and the Australian Greenhouse Office (draft attached)
- Worked extensively on submissions to both the *Revised Demand Side Response and Distributed Generation Case Studies*, prepared for the Network Policy Working Group by NERA, and the NERA Economic Consulting / Allen Consulting Group's paper *Network Planning and Connection Arrangements – National Frameworks for Distribution Networks*. This work was completed and submitted in early October and as such will accompany the next ATA Advocacy Report.

Accompanying this report are copies of any submissions mentioned above.

It should also be noted that the project officer took three weeks annual leave over this period of employment, and as such was only effectively employed for 10 of the 13 weeks.

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)