

Advocacy Panel: criteria for appointments January 2002

In 2002 NECA appointed Ken Baxter as chairman of the Advocacy Panel responsible for administering the arrangements for end-user advocacy in the national electricity market. The Code requires the chairman to appoint four other members to the Panel:

- two representatives of end-users (one representative of domestic end-users and one representative of business end-users); and
- two representatives of market participants (one representative of retailers and one representative of generators).

The appointments must be made in the light of guidelines, and on terms and conditions, developed and published by the Panel's chairman in accordance with the Code consultation procedures.

Ken Baxter proposed draft guidelines that would require members of the Advocacy Panel to have:

- an understanding of the way in which markets work and the conditions which are necessary to ensure that consumers obtain long term benefits and the incentives remain for suppliers to maintain investment in efficient technology and infrastructure;
- the intellectual rigour to analyse the issues which will enable markets to operate efficiently and effectively and in so doing provide consumers with a level of service and prices which will provide the incentives for the markets to work;
- an understanding of the Australian federal system and the impact it has on the operation of the energy market;
- the capacity to analyse and prioritise proposals for credible research to be commissioned and the results published which will assist the operation of an effective energy market with the emphasis on electricity, to the benefit of Australian consumers;
- the ability to allocate limited research funds to optimise the use of those funds;
- an understanding of the interests of the stakeholders in the electricity industry and the Australian energy market generally;
- an understanding of the accountability requirements associated with the commissioning and reporting of research;
- a willingness to meet with the stakeholders; and
- the ability to work as a member of a small team in achieving the objectives of the Panel.

K Baxter