

**National Consumers Electricity
ADVOCACY PANEL**

Draft guidelines for the appointment of representatives to the Advocacy Panel

24 October 2005

Having regard to:

- the experience of the panel since its establishment in February 2003 and its funding end user advocacy since June in that year;
- the need for representative members of the panel to be capable of reflecting the viewpoints and concerns of their constituencies; and
- the need that the chairperson consult with relevant consumer organisations and industry bodies,

I have developed, under cl 8.10.2(e) of the National Electricity Rules, the following draft guidelines for the appointment of representatives to the Advocacy Panel:

1. Representatives should be able to reflect the viewpoints and concerns of their constituencies by:
 - a. being the nominee of an organisation whose members are, in the main, the constituency;
 - b. having good relations with the main groups in the constituency; or
 - c. having the respect or the capacity to have the respect of groups and individuals in the constituency.
2. Representatives should be familiar with the national electricity market and either be familiar with the National Electricity Rules or have the capacity to deal with issues under the Rules;
3. Representatives have to be able to observe the Standards of Conduct for panel members published by the panel. In particular, representatives have to avoid conflicts between their private interest, financial or otherwise, and their duty in considering a funding application. In meetings representatives, with the chairman, need to work together in the interests of the panel, and bring an independent and discerning judgment, even to applications from, or which affect, their own constituency;
4. A representative cannot be a member of or consultant to a body funded by the panel. A recently former member or consultant of such a body would ordinarily not be considered for appointment;
5. A representative should be available to anyone in his or her constituency reasonably requiring assistance with applications, in accordance with the Standards of Conduct;
6. User representatives should be available for and organise a meeting with users and user organisations in their constituency once every 18 months to discuss relevant matters. The meeting should have provision for attendance by video link to the place where it is actually held. The panel would provide funding and assistance for such a meeting;
7. Representatives must have a capacity for the following tasks:
 - a. analysis and prioritisation of proposals for research and advocacy relating to the electricity market in accordance with the Funding Criteria of the panel;
 - b. an understanding of the interests of the participants under the National Electricity Rules as well as the constituencies of the representatives;
 - c. review of funded work, and an understanding of accountability requirements associated with the funding and reporting of research;

- d. ability to work as a member of a small team in achieving the objectives of the panel, for which purpose meetings would be held about five times a year;
8. Appointments should be made after expressions of interest have been sought by advertising and by notice to relevant consumer and industry bodies;
9. The term of representatives would normally be three years, or some lesser period to conform to the Rules.

The Standards of Conduct and the Funding Criteria may be viewed at the panel's website at advocacypanel.com.au.

These guidelines will replace the [present guidelines](#) for appointment of representatives which also may be viewed on the website.

Written submissions on these draft guidelines may be sent to the chairman at djlb@axtonjones.com.au or post office box 43, Surrey Hills, Vic, 3127, to reach him by 5 pm Friday, 2 December 2005.

Submissions will then be considered in accordance with the Rules Consultation Procedures in cl 8.9 of the Rules.

A Bisits
Chairman
24 October 2005