

**National Consumers Electricity
ADVOCACY PANEL**

**Draft report on guidelines for the appointment of representatives to the
Advocacy Panel – cl 8.9(g) of the National Electricity Rules**

5 December 2005

Notice

Consulted persons – namely NEMMCO, registered participants and interested parties - are invited to make written submissions on the following draft report to the chairman of the Panel, care of David Bremner, the Executive Officer, at djlb@axtonjones.com.au or post office box 43, Surrey Hills 3127, to reach him by 30 December 2005.

Draft report

There have been no submissions on the draft guidelines for the appointment of representatives to the Advocacy Panel dated 24 October 2005.

I now conclude and determine that those guidelines should be made;

1. I do so for the reasons that they provide for representative members of the Panel to be capable of reflecting the viewpoints and concerns of their constituencies, for the chairperson to consult with relevant consumer organisations and industry bodies, and for persons interested in appointment to know the standards of conduct to be expected of them.
2. The procedure I followed in considering the matter of these guidelines was to take into account the guidelines prepared by my predecessor, which was done before the first representative members had been appointed, against over two and a half years observation, as the only independent member of the Panel, of the way constituency viewpoints were articulated in consideration of applications before the Panel. I was also concerned to link the Panel's Standards of Conduct, themselves based on the experience of the Panel in 2004, to the guidelines for appointment of representative members.

The guidelines for the appointment of representatives to the Advocacy Panel are as follows:

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:
 - d. analysis and prioritisation of proposals for research and advocacy relating to the electricity market in accordance with the Funding Criteria of the Panel;
 - e. an understanding of the interests of the participants under the National Electricity Rules as well as the constituencies of the representatives;
 - f. review of funded work, and an understanding of accountability requirements associated with the funding and reporting of research;
 - g. 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 www.advocacypanel.com.au.

These guidelines will replace the present guidelines for appointment of representatives which also may be viewed on the website.

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Chairman