

**NATIONAL CONSUMERS ELECTRICITY
ADVOCACY PANEL**

MARCH 2005 UPDATE

Welcome:

The chairman of the Panel, Adam Bisits, appointed Mark Brownfield as an interim replacement for Mark Landis who resigned from the Panel in February 2005. Mark's appointment is until 31 March 2005. A permanent appointment will be made following consultation with energy retailers.

David Bremner has been appointed Executive Officer of the Panel.

Summary of funding decisions from the meeting of 2 March 2005

Application 99: Centre for Credit and Consumer Law, Qld – consultation with and the involvement of consumers and community organisations in electricity market issues. Approval granted for funding of \$90,783.

Application 102: Energy Action Group - changes to the national electricity law in relation to implementing a merits review process. Approval granted for \$18,500.

Application 103: Energy Action Group - submission to the Productivity Commission Draft Energy Efficiency Report and the Ministerial Council on Energy Standing Committee of Officers' Energy Efficiency work stream. Approval granted for \$12,000 for the first stage of the project. Consideration of the second stage was deferred.

Application 104: Energy Action Group - Submission to AGLE v ESCoSA. Consideration was deferred.

Application 105: Energy Users Association of Australia – Barriers to demand side response (DSR). Application deferred.

Application 106: Energy Users Association of Australia – Review of Victorian Cross Ownership Rules. Funding approved for \$20,230

Application 107: Energy Users Association of Australia - Evaluation of ESC's Distribution Pricing Review Consultation Papers. Application deferred.

Application 108: Energy Users Association of Australia - MCE National Framework Distribution and Retail Regulation Options Paper. Application deferred.

Application 109: Energy Users Association of Australia - A study to review energy efficiency. Application deferred.

Application 110: Energy Users Association of Australia - National Electricity Law Regulations and Memorandum of Understanding. Application deferred.

Application 111 – Energy Markets Reform Forum, Electricity Consumer Coalition of SA and Energy Users Coalition of Vic – Review and respond to MCE Options Papers to be issued March 2005. Funding approved for \$35,000.

Application 112 – Energy Users Coalition of Victoria and Electricity Consumers Coalition of SA – Review of Victorian Cross Ownership Rules. Funding approved for \$25,000.

Application 113 – Alternative Technology Association – Extension of funding for Application 36. Funding approved for \$6,000.

Funding agreements will be finalised with successful applicants.

Review of funding criteria

The Panel resolved to issue a draft of new funding criteria for comment under the code consultation process pursuant to cl 8.9 of the National Electricity Code. The draft criteria and the call for submission can be found under the Latest News section of the Panel's website www.advocacypanel.com.au

The Panel also resolved to advertise for applications for funding the structural development and operation of end user organisations.

David J L Bremner
Executive Officer
24 March 2005