

**NATIONAL CONSUMERS ELECTRICITY
ADVOCACY PANEL**

MAY 2005 UPDATE

Summary of funding decisions from the meeting of 4 May 2005

Application 90: Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd - Community Empowerment #2. The application was deferred to the next meeting.

Application 117: Energy Users Coalition of Victoria - Respond to Essential Services Commission of Victoria Electricity Distribution Price Review 2006-2010 papers. Consideration of the application was deferred until resolution of issues concerning application 112. [On 6 June the application was approved for funding of \$35,900 excl GST]

Application 118: School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Adelaide - Research invariant users and their implications for pricing policy and demand. The application was approved as to its first stage – identify the invariant users. The amount of funding will be determined by the Panel following consultation with the applicant.

Application 119: Institute for Sustainable Futures (University of Technology, Sydney), Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre, Andrew Nance - Disadvantage in the NEM: Improving market participation by disadvantaged households. The application was deferred while further information is sought from the applicant.

Application 120: Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre and the Shire of Campaspe - An analysis of the effectiveness of the regulatory and policy mechanisms available to rural and regional communities to enhance or improve their electricity infrastructure. The application was deferred while further information is sought from the applicant.

Application 121: Public Interest Advocacy Centre - Licence compliance and enforcement. The application was approved for funding of \$38,250 excl GST.

Application 122: Consumer Law Centre Victoria and Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre - Funding for consumer advocates seminar re options paper on national retail and distribution regulatory regime. The application was approved for funding of \$8,150 excl GST.

Application 123: Total Environment Centre – employ full-time national electricity market advocate for 12 months. The application was deferred while further information is sought from the applicant.

Application 124: Energy Action Group - Seminar for advocacy organisations. The application was rejected because:

- The applicant did not advise who would attend the conference;
- The budgeted cost is unattractive; and
- The CLCV application for a similar conference is more advanced and has been funded by the Panel.

Application 125: Energy Action Group - Investigate information technology costs for the market settlement and transfer system. The application was rejected because:

- The problem is not clearly identified;
- The relevance of the project to end users is not spelt out; and

- The proposed advocacy is not stated in sufficient detail.

Application 126: Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre and the Centre for Regulatory Studies - Where is the consumer? The implications of legislative and regulatory reforms in the NEM for consumers. The application was deferred to a future meeting.

Application 127 Alternative Technology Association – employ full-time national electricity market advocate for 12 months. The application was deferred until application 36 is completed.

Application 128: Energy Users Association of Australia – national electricity market Electricity Reliability Standard Review. The application was approved for funding of \$47,210 excl GST.

Application 129 Energy Users Association of Australia - Electricity contract harmonisation project. The application was rejected because:

- The project is not within the national electricity market wholesale market as it is a retail market issue; and
- It would have broad commercial implications that would need to be addressed.

Application 130: Energy Action Group - Investigate legality of certain levies. The application was approved for funding of \$6,100 excl GST.

Application 131: Energy Response Pty Ltd - Investigate impediments, legal issues and develop of demand side response market. The application was rejected because the application is outside the Panel's funding criteria.

Application 132: Electricity Consumers Coalition of South Australia - Respond to ETSA appeal against ESCoSA final determination on price cap. The application was deferred and the applicant asked to identify the appeal body and whether it, the applicant, has standing in the appeal. [Following the provision of additional information, the application was rejected for the following reasons:

- The applicant does not have standing to make a submission to the appeal. It may not be appropriate for the regulator to accept a submission from the applicant given that lack of standing.
- Some of the listed activities eg "request data on cost allocation and review responses" would not seem to be possible.
- Neither ESCOSA nor the SA Govt has called for further public submissions
- ECCSA have no issue with anyone, or at least they have advised the Panel of them in the application. Without an issue there is nothing to advocate]

Review of draft funding criteria

The responses to the Panel arising from the consultation process were tabled. The Panel will consider the responses and respond to them in accordance with the consultation timetable.

Panel conduct and standards paper

The Panel adopted revised rules and procedures for its meetings and associated processes. The revised rules and procedures have been displayed on the Panel's website.

David J L Bremner
Executive Officer
10 June 2005