

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS ADVOCACY PANEL

Summary of funding decisions made at the Panel's meeting of 5 February 2007

This was the first meeting of the recently appointed Panel which consists of Frank Peach, Chairperson, Catherine Cooper, Bruce Connery, Gordon Renouf, and Professor Bill Russell.

Consideration of applications for funding

1. Application 234: University of Ballarat, School of Science and Engineering - Empowering Rural Energy Consumers through Embedded Renewable Energy: Improving electricity market outcomes through addressing the impediments and opportunities associated with embedded renewable energy generation in central and western Victoria

Resolved that the application be deferred and that the Executive Officer discuss the project with the applicant – in particular, the need for a greater focus on advocacy, some costs which appear high, and engagement with local consumers.

2. Application 236: Consumer Action Law Centre - Travel costs for attendance at the MCE's Retail Policy Working Group Stakeholder Reference Group meetings

Resolved that the application be rejected and instead the applicants be advised to include the travel costs in CALC's roundtable meetings budget (application 207). In the event that the actual expenditure on the roundtables exceeds the funding already provided, the Panel will provide the required additional funding.

3. Application 240: Request for an increase in the amount of funding approved for application 168, Energy Users Association of Australia - Powerlink revenue determination by AER

Resolved that additional funding of \$5,000 excl GST be approved.

4. Application 237: Energy Users Association of Australia - Amendments to the National Electricity Law

Resolved that the application be rejected and the applicant be advised that the Panel is not unsympathetic to the project and seeks its advice as to whether the EUAA may wish to review both the exposure draft and the probable later amended draft of the law so the Panel is aware of the total cost of both reviews. After receiving this advice, the Panel may, if necessary, consider the application, initially via an email vote.

5. Application 238: Major Energy Users Inc (EMRF, ECCSA, EUCV & MEG Tasmania) - Review of AER guidelines for electricity transmission revenue reset

The application was not considered as although the applicant had submitted the application promptly, it had not been received in sufficient time to be analysed and considered by the Panel. The Executive Officer will inform the applicant that the application will be considered at the Panel's March 2007 meeting.

David J L Bremner
Executive Officer
12 February 2007