

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS ADVOCACY PANEL

Summary of funding decisions made at the Panel's meeting on 10 April 2007

Consideration of applications for funding

1. Capacity building applications for 2007/2008 - Application 245 by the Tasmanian Council of Social Service, 246 by the Alternative Technology Association, 248 by the Total Environment Centre, 249 by the Consumer Action Law Centre, 250 by the South Australian Council of Social Service; 251 by the Centre for Credit and Consumer Law; 252 by the Energy Users Association of Australia, 253 by the Energy Action Group, and 254 by the Australian Council of Social Service

The Panel will at its May 2007 meeting discuss how the effectiveness of capacity building projects can be assessed and therefore it resolved that:

- The existing capacity building projects being undertaken by the Tasmanian Council of Social Service, Alternative Technology Association, Total Environment Centre, Consumer Action Law Centre, South Australian Council of Social Service; Centre for Credit and Consumer Law; Energy Users Association of Australia, and the Australian Council of Social Service be rolled over until 31 December 2007 at the same level of funding as in the 2006/2007 capacity building project plus 4%, subject the AEMC approving sufficient budget for the Panel to fund the roll overs;
 - The Panel will reach decisions on the matters of the budget to be allocated to capacity building projects and the measurement of the effectiveness of capacity building projects by no later than 30 September 2007;
 - The Total Environment Centre, Consumer Action Law Centre, and the Centre for Credit and Consumer Law are advised that if they wish to pursue the separate new projects included in their applications for capacity building funding, they should submit separate applications; and
 - Application 253 by the Energy Action Group is rejected on the grounds that prior to completing an assessment of the effectiveness of capacity building projects, the Panel will not approve new capacity building projects.
2. Application 255: Energy Users Association of Australia - Revenue determination for ElectraNet 2008/2013

Resolved that the application is deferred pending the Panel obtaining further information as to whether the Major Energy Users Inc intends to seek funding for this topic and a possible joint application for funding being made.

3. Applications 239 and 242: Major Energy Users Inc and Energy Users Association of Australia - Revenue determination for SPAusNet 2008/2013

Resolved that the Panel again invites the EUAA and MEU to submit a joint application for funding which the Panel will consider. The Panel noted that its decision on the applications was made on the basis that the Panel must use its budget wisely and therefore it would be inappropriate to fund two submissions on this project from applicants (business end-users) who could be expected to have the same point of view.

4. Application 247: Major Energy Users - Respond to AEMC Congestion Management Direction

Resolved that:

- The congestion management review is an important issue for end-users and therefore it is appropriate for the Panel to fund a submission on behalf of end-users;
- Through application 202 the EUAA has already been funded to respond on the issue;
- The MEU's application is rejected on the grounds that the Panel must use its budget wisely and therefore it would be inappropriate to fund two submissions on this project from applicants (business end-users) who could be expected to have the same point of view. The MEU is encouraged to accept the EUAA's invitation to comment on the draft submission.

David J L Bremner
Executive Officer
18 April 2007