

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS ADVOCACY PANEL

Summary of funding decisions made by the Panel during June 2008

1. Application 308: Major Energy Users Inc (EMRF, ECCSA, EUCV & MEG Tasmania) - Transgrid (NSW) revenue cap review 2008

Resolved that the application be rejected on the grounds that the EUAA will be funded to undertake a response to the review on behalf of business consumers. The Panel noted that its policy is not to fund more than one project on a subject on behalf of the same consumer group and in view of the fact that the MEU had undertaken two recent revenue reviews, it would fund the EUAA on this occasion in order to provide diversity in the views being put to decision-makers.

2. Application 309: Major Energy Users Inc (EMRF, ECCSA, EUCV & MEG Tasmania) - Distribution price cap review for NSW businesses

Resolved that the application be approved for funding of \$39,904 plus GST to be paid as follows:

- \$18,000 on delivery to the Panel of the MEU's response to the distribution businesses' applications;
- \$10,000 on delivery to the Panel of the MEU's response to the AER consultant's report; and
- \$11,904 on delivery to the Panel of the MEU's response to the AER's draft decision.

The Panel noted application 316 by the EUAA to undertake the same project. The Panel also noted that its policy is not to fund more than one project on a subject on behalf of the same consumer group and on this occasion will fund the MEU.

3. Application 315: Australian Council of Social Service - Travel costs for consumer representatives on the National Smart Meter Working Groups

Resolved that the application be approved in principle for funding subject to the applicant submitting a revised budget after the matters of the number of working groups to be created and the number of meetings each will hold have been resolved. The Panel will require certification from the ACOSS executive director that the costs provided for in the budget have been incurred. It will also require any surplus funding to be returned to the Panel.

4. Application 316: Energy Users Association of Australia - NSW and ACT Electricity distribution price reviews 2009/10-2014/15

Resolved that the application be rejected on the grounds that the MEU will be funded to undertake a response to the review on behalf of business consumers. The Panel noted that its policy is not to fund more than one project on a subject on behalf of the same consumer group.

5. Application 317: Energy Users Association of Australia - Transend (Tasmania) revenue cap review 2009/10-2014/15

Resolved that the application be approved for funding of \$31,000 plus GST to be paid as follows:

- \$12,000 on delivery to the Panel of the EUAA's submission to the review and a copy of the consultant's invoice;
- \$12,000 on delivery to the Panel of the EUAA's submission on the draft decision and a copy of the consultant's invoice;
- \$4,000 on delivery to the Panel of the EUAA's post decision report and a copy of the consultant's invoice;

- \$3,000 on presentation of an invoice for consultant's incidental costs.

6. Application 318: Energy Users Association of Australia - Transgrid (NSW) revenue cap review 2009/10-2014/15

Resolved that the application be approved for funding of \$39,000 excl GST to be paid as follows:

- \$14,000 on delivery to the Panel of the EUAA's submission to the review and a copy of the consultant's invoice;
- \$18,000 on delivery to the Panel of the EUAA's submission on the draft decision and a copy of the consultant's invoice;
- \$4,000 on delivery to the Panel of the EUAA's post decision report and a copy of the consultant's invoice;
- \$3,000 on presentation of an invoice for incidentals.

The Panel noted application 308 by the MEU to undertake the same project. The Panel also noted that its policy is not to fund more than one project on a subject on behalf of the same consumer group and on this occasion will fund the EUAA.

7. Application 298: Major Energy Users Inc (EMRF, ECCSA, EUCV & MEG Tasmania) - NEM Rule change proposal to mitigate the exercise of generator market power

Resolved that the application be deferred and be referred at the Panel's cost to an independent consultant in order for the scope of the project to be reviewed. The consultant is to report to the Panel. The Panel notes the MEU's view as to the urgency of the project and therefore will deal with the matter promptly.

8. Application 319: Major Energy Users Inc (EMRF, ECCSA, EUCV & MEG Tasmania) - AER review of WACC for transmission and distribution networks

Resolved that the application be deferred pending the Panel being able to also consider a foreshadowed application from the EUAA to undertake the same project.

The Panel advised the MEU and EUAA that for such an important project, it would expect them to undertake a combined response to the AER so it receives the benefit of their combined knowledge and expertise in this area. The Panel's policy of funding fund no more than one project on a subject on behalf of the same consumer group will apply in this case.

9. Application 320: Consumer Action Law Centre - Costs for Roundtable participants attending MCE forums on National Energy Customer Framework

The Panel noted that it had previously approved the project subject to being satisfied with the revised budget. The Panel was satisfied with the budget and therefore the project will be funded.

David J L Bremner
Executive Officer
17 July 2008