

Grants Decisions – 2015/16

APPLICATION NUMBER	FINANCIAL YEAR	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT PURPOSE	AMOUNT SOUGHT	AMOUNT FUNDED	STATUS
755	2015/16	Australian PV Institute	Network charges and regulatory proposals advocacy for energy consumers who have, or intend to, install photovoltaics	To represent the more than 1.2 million grid-connected householders with PV systems in the QLD and SA electricity distribution networks determination.	\$28,250.00	\$28,250.00	Approved
757	2015/16	Total Environment Centre	2015 update of TEC/Greenpeace Green Electricity Guide and What Price Solar factsheet	The What Price Solar? factsheet is the only simple comparison available of government feed-in tariffs and voluntary retailer export prices across Australia, and will also provide tips on how solar customers can avoid contractual and tariff traps.	\$51,420.00	\$34,990.00	Approved
759	2015/16	South Australian Council of Social Service	National Consumer Roundtable on Energy – organisation of meetings	To maximise the complementarity and effectiveness of Energy Consumers Australia (ECA) and the Roundtable during the establishment of ECA by maintaining and sharing consumer advocate knowledge bases, networks, relationships and resource.	\$102,126.00	\$102,126.00	Approved

760	2015/16	South Australian Council of Social Service	Embedding Better Practice among Energy Retailers	To ensure that optimal outcomes occur for consumers at risk of or directly experiencing energy hardship and affordability issues. The project will target 6 energy retailers and aim to embed SACOSS' Better Practice Guideline within their business plan.	\$65,465.00	\$65,465.00	Approved
761	2015/16	Cummings Economics	Assistance to Far North Queensland industry and social organisations to ensure input to Qld Productivity Commission Electricity Pricing Inquiry	To ensure that the Qld Productivity Commission Inquiry into Electricity Pricing receives input from regional organisations, to secure competitively priced and reliable electricity supply for regional Queensland.	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00	Approved
762	2015/16	Consumer Action Law Centre	Regulatory architecture for a consumer-driven energy market	To assess alternative regulatory models for retail consumer protection in a transforming energy market, to produce a regulatory model that is sufficiently flexible, adaptable and dynamic to respond to market development and potential consumer detriment.	\$46,222.00		No
763	2015/16	Public Interest Advocacy Centre	Legal support and capacity-building for consumers in limited merits review	To provide legal expertise to consumer organisations in order to improve their capacity to participate in limited merits review processes.	\$178,500.00		Withdrawn
764	2015/16	Tasmanian Small Business Council	Advocacy on the future of the natural gas supply and	To identify and measure the risk to Tasmanian small business	\$31,500.00	\$31,500.00	Approved

			prices to Tasmanian small businesses	from their currently limited access to natural gas and the renegotiation of the Tas gas transport contract post December 2017, together with forecast increase in domestic price.			
765	2015/16	Major Energy Users Inc	Consumer advocacy into stage 2 of the AEMC review of east coast gas markets	To ensure consumer views are integrated into AEMC review of east coast gas markets	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	Approved
766	2015/16	South Australian Council of Social Service	SACOSS intervention in the Australian Competition Tribunal merits review of SA Power Networks	To represent consumers in the ACT limited merits review process of SA Power Networks, to minimise SA consumers' prices, consolidate gains of NSW/ACT appeal, and ensure consumer engagement NSPs benefits consumers	\$48,400.00	\$48,400.00	Approved
767	2015/16	Tasmanian Small Business Council	Examination of the existence and impacts of cross-subsidies in Tasmanian small business electricity tariffs	To establish the existence of cross-subsidies in Tasmanian small business electricity tariffs, determine their impact on small business prices and competitiveness, identify rationale for cross-subsidies, and advocate for reform	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	Approved
768	2015/16	Total Environment Centre	Amicus curiae application to Federal Court in SAPN v AER in support of solar consumers	To benefit solar PV households through an amicus curiae intervention to the Federal Court considering SA Power Networks appeal against the AER rejection of its solar tariff	\$19,595.00	\$19,595.00	Approved

769	2015/16	Tyson Vaughan	Spoilt for choice: how the NEM framework thinks consumers make choices, and how they choose in reality	To examine how the NEM policy framework expects consumers to make choices to achieve the NEO, and if it differs in reality, make recommendations to advocates and policy-makers to manage that risk	\$39,750.00		No
770	2015/16	Total Environment Centre	Proponent involvement in local generation network credit rule change process	Support rule change to require networks to offer a credit to local generators reflecting their limited use of the total network, thus promoting long term utilisation of the grid and reducing costs for remaining grid-connected customers.	\$28,650.00	\$28,650.00	Approved
771	2015/16	Total Environment Centre	Life after FiTs: options for solar and other consumers	To provide advice to the 230,000 solar customers whose premium feed-in tariffs end on 31/12/16, and advocate for NSP contributions to NSW Climate Change Fund continuing after 2016, to assist low-income consumers	\$32,750.00	\$32,750.00	Approved
772	2015/16	Backroad Connections	Research review and advocacy on the fair value of distributed generation	Advocacy to Qld, Vic and Tas FiT inquiries to ensure that their methodology includes all relevant factors that determine a fair compensation for exported energy, and owners get a fair return on their investment.	\$39,245.00	\$37,245.00	Approved
773	2015/16	National Retail Association	Embedded network energy pricing - developing	To investigate whether small to medium retailers which are	\$79,088.00		No

			an equitable energy pricing policy for retail shopping centres	bound to embedded electricity networks in shopping centres incur substantially higher energy costs than those available in competitive energy markets.			
774	2015/16	University of Sydney	Improving the effectiveness of consumers' submissions made to the AEMC	To improve the persuasiveness and effectiveness of consumer submissions to the AEMC rule change process, and identify areas of that process that hamper consumer engagement.	\$54,993.00		No
775	2015/16	Cummings Economics	Daintree/Cape Tribulation Project	To find out how households and businesses in the area have reacted to living off the grid, and especially the degree to which they have installed non-fossil fuel generation and their experiences of it.	\$11,200.00	\$11,200.00	Approved
776	2015/16	Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation	2016 Queensland Rural Domestic Energy Consumer's Report	To identify energy issues in a rural community to support future advocacy, as well as provide household auditors and information to domestic rural consumers in the Burnett region to reduce usage and explain new tariffs	\$36,000.00		No
778	2015/16	Total Environment Centre	Protecting solar customers in setting network tariffs	The bills and interests of solar households and small businesses will be better protected by these consumers being directly represented in network tariff structure	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	Withdrawn

				statements - without adversely affecting non-solar consumers.			
779	2015/16	Communications and Information Technology Training	SME uptake of clean and renewable energy efficient solutions	To engage with industry and SME stakeholders to assess their uptake of clean and renewable energy efficient solutions and determine barriers impacting their choice, and promote and disseminate best practice models and case studies	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	Approved
780	2015/16	Communications and Information Technology Training	Survey of SME electricity supply contracts and barriers to reducing costs	To survey over 27,000 telecomms small business operators to identify the benefits and barriers to embracing energy saving technologies and third party opportunities.	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	Approved
781	2015/16	Consumer Action Law Centre	Engagement in Victorian hardship inquiry	To ensure the Victorian hardship framework is designed with vulnerable consumers at its centre, informed by casework from Consumer Action and partner advocates	\$18,098.00	\$18,098.00	Approved
782	2015/16	Major Energy Users Inc	Assessment of the SA electricity wholesale market late 2015	To assess the drivers of high SA wholesale prices, the impacts on consumers and any mechanisms to address the issue.	\$16,800.00	\$16,800.00	Approved
783	2015/16	Energy Users Association of Australia	Performance scorecard on NSPs development of cost reflective tariffs	To develop an advocates' performance scorecard of the DNSPs' development of Tariff Structure Statements, to inform the AER's assessments.	\$39,845.00	\$39,845.00	Approved

784	2015/16	South Australian Council of Social Service	SACOSS Appeal/Intervention in the Australian Competition Tribunal – AER Final Decision on the SA Power Networks Determination 2015-20	To represent SA consumers in the Tribunal to promote the long-term interests of consumers and to minimise price increases in the 2015-2020 regulatory period	\$146,000.00	\$59,000.00	Approved
785	2015/16	Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS)	CEO GRANT NCOSS advocacy in NSW TSS	To advocate for low income and vulnerable NSW households in NSW tariff reform program, equip a broad range of community sector organisations to participate in future reform processes, and to develop an NCOSS strategic plan for engagement in next TSS.	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	Approved
786	2015/16	Tasmanian Small Business Council	CEO GRANT TSBC review of Tas wholesale electricity contract regulatory instrument Issues Paper	To engage in the Tasmanian Government review of the Wholesale Contract Regulatory Instrument	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	Approved
787	2015/16	Business South Australia	Analysis of SAPN tariff reforms through its proposed TSS in relation to impacts on small business	To inform Business SA submission to the AER on SAPN TSS, to understand the impacts on small business and possible TSS adjustments, as well as Fed and State Governments understand policy settings to help small business adjust to cost-reflective tariffs	\$60,000.00	\$27,600.00	Approved
788	2015/16	RMIT Centre for Urban Research	Smart home control: exploring the potential for enabling technologies in	To inform programs, strategies and technologies designed to provide households with greater control over their home	\$153,660.00	\$153,660.00	Approved

			vulnerable and disadvantaged households	appliances and electricity use in response to energy market reforms.			
789	2015/16	Financial and Consumer Rights Council	Rank the Energy Retailer 2016	To document and analyse the opinions and experiences of approximately 130 Victorian financial counsellors in regard to the financial hardship practices of Victorian energy retailers, to highlight poor and good performance	\$63,000.00	\$45,000.00	Approved
790	2015/16	Energy Users Association of Australia	Ensuring the Powerlink and SP Ausnet 2017-2022 Revenue Determinations reflect consumers' long-term interests	To collaborate with a range of consumer groups to advocate for consumers in the Powerlink and SP Ausnet revenue resets.	\$102,325.00		No
791	2015/16	Queensland Council of Social Service	Interaction between energy supply and residential rental housing arrangements	Research current and emerging energy consumer issues for various rental households to highlight existing scenarios and possible future issues in the developing energy market in urban and regional Qld	\$67,909.00	\$67,909.00	Approved
792	2015/16	Queensland Council of Social Service	Advocacy for residential and business consumers to QLD Productivity Commission (QPC) Review of Electricity Prices	The Qld Energy Consumers Reference Committee (QECRC), chaired jointly by QCOSS and CCIQ, will provide a joint perspective to the QPC review and to the Qld Government to provide a Qld consumer perspective.	\$36,135.00	\$36,135.00	Approved
793	2015/16	Tasmanian Small Business Council	Small Business Advocacy on TasNetworks	To provide well-informed advocacy on behalf of	\$68,500.00	\$68,500.00	Approved

			Distribution Determination 2017-2019	Tasmanian small businesses for the AER's Determination of TasNetworks Distribution Services 2017-2019			
794	2015/16	St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc	Tariff-tracking and price analysis in NSW, QLD, SA, ACT and TAS post price resets in July 2016	To inform residential consumers across the NEM about changes to electricity and gas prices post the price re-set in July 2016, and inform regulators, policy-makers and advocates about market trends, tariff changes and issues arising in NEM retail markets.	\$77,190.00	\$77,190.00	Approved
795	2015/16	Total Environment Centre	Networks & batteries: what's best for consumers?	To develop and advocate for a consumer-focused approach on the involvement of distribution networks in behind-the-meter and grid-side battery installations.	\$68,900.00	\$68,900.00	Approved
796	2015/16	Aged and Community Services Tasmania	Network Tariff Reform undertaken by TasNetworks	To represent AGCT and LGAT members in the AER's consideration of TasNetworks Tariff Structure Statement, and particularly the proposed changes to the existing nursing home tariff	\$9,000.00		No
797	2015/16	Cummings Economics	CEO GRANT FNQEUN Consumer Engagement Grant	To enable FNQEUN to advocate for small businesses and households in regional Queensland from mid-March to May 2016 during a critical time for electricity pricing for Qld consumers	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Approved

799	2015/16	Ethnic Communities Council of New South Wales	CEO GRANT Representing CALD energy consumers at the ENA Conference, Adelaide May 2016	To enable ECC NSW presentation of its consumer engagement research and guidelines to the ENA Conference 18-20 May 2015	\$2,160.00	\$960.00	Approved
800	2015/16	Public Interest Advocacy Centre	AER vs Australian Competition Tribunal ADJR applications to the Full Federal Court: NSD 415,416,418,419,420/2016	To enable PIAC to intervene in proceedings initiated by the AER in the Federal Court, seeking judicial review of the Australian Competition Tribunal decision on NSW networks	\$212,800.00	\$212,800.00	Approved
802	2015/16	Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre	CUAC intervention in the Australian Competition Tribunal – AER final decision for the Victorian DNSPs	To ensure consumers are represented in Australian Competition Tribunal matter related to the Victorian DNSPs; minimise prices paid to Victorian consumers; ensure gains from NSW/ACT LMR processes benefit Victorians	\$205,800.00	\$48,000.00	Approved
803	2015/16	Goanna Energy Consulting Pty Ltd	Optimising consumer outcomes from increasing adoption of electric vehicles in Australia - Tas case study	To understand the member of electric vehicles required to have a material impact on the NEM, to measure that impact on prices, bills and equivalent vehicle fuel costs, and potential changes required to optimize consumer benefits	\$49,000.00		No
805	2015/16	University of NSW	Photovoltaics on apartment buildings	To increase deployment of PV on Australian apartment buildings, to enable residents to share the financial and other benefits of on-site renewable energy deployment, through	\$61,765.00		No

				creation of a strong evidence base outlining benefits			
806	2015/16	Engineroom Infrastructure Consulting	Realising the benefits of smart meters	To identify the incidence of benefits from smart meters so they're introduced in cost-effective way and benefits passed through to consumers, and to identify any NER changes to support functionality requirements.	\$53,010.00		No
807	2015/16	Engineroom Infrastructure Consulting	Research and advocacy materials on accelerated depreciation	To develop advocacy materials and reasoned analysis in relation to networks' and ENA proposals to use accelerated depreciation to manage the threat from emerging technologies.	\$32,490.00	\$32,490.00	Approved
808	2015/16	Seed Advisory Pty Ltd	Plug and Play: Facilitating innovation and productivity in Australia's electricity markets	To ensure innovative technologies provide the maximum benefit to users, national policy settings are consistent with more coordinated approach to network access, national policy settings and market access respond efficiently in meeting emission targets.	\$98,926.00		No
811	2015/16	Robert Campbell	Engagement of Senior Counsel to advise on QLD FiT	To secure legal advice on the legality of the Qld Government pass-through of the subsidy supporting the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) of \$0.44 until 2028	\$100,000.00		No
814	2015/16	University of NSW, School of	Tariff Assessment Tool	To develop a tariff testing tool to enable consumer advocates	\$54,200.00	\$54,200.00	Approved

		PV and Renewable Energy Engineering		and researchers to investigate how different tariff structures impact on the bills of different types of residential customers, while also estimating alignment with network costs.			
815	2015/16	Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Planning future grids together: improving engagement between network planners and local government	To enable local governments and DNSPs to work cooperatively to create planned, integrated energy solutions through sharing data and developing resources to identify planning opportunities and establish replicable process.	\$31,760.00	\$31,760.00	Approved
816	2015/16	Australian PV Institute	Tariff analysis and solar potential platform for consumers	To develop a platform enabling consumers to input their load data and compare impact of different tariffs/products, estimate value if investing in PV, load control, storage, and research and test alternatives.	\$128,900.00		No
817	2015/16	Cummings Economics	Input into strategies and understanding for smooth transition to renewable energy future while maintaining affordable and reliable electricity in NEM and particularly in the regions	To ensure national and state entities responsible for electricity pricing and supply receive informed input from residents and a diverse range of businesses located in regional Queensland, particularly Far North Qld.	\$96,000.00	\$96,000.00	Approved
818	2015/16	Starfish Initiatives	North Coast Energy Forum (NCEF) NSW 2016	To advocate for and build community capacity for a more resilient, equitable and localised approach to forming a	\$16,800.00		No

				sustainable energy system. NCEF will gather business, govt and community stakeholder to support local policy development.			
819	2015/16	Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney	Delivering stakeholder support for AEMC Local Generation Network Credits Rule Change	To generate diverse stakeholder support in support of the AEMC rule change process.	\$35,000.00		No
821	2015/16	CitySmart Pty Ltd	Understanding the changing needs of residential energy consumers in the information age and the implications for tariff reform	Assist energy industry and policy makers to understand the changing needs of today's energy consumers by creating a segmentation model to facilitate more effective education and awareness activity to support tariff reform implementation.	\$195,000.00	\$195,000.00	Approved
822	2015/16	Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland	Enhanced advocacy on behalf of small business in SE QLD	To provide qualitative and quantitative analysis of the effectiveness of deregulation over a 6 or 12 month period for small business in SEQ, to inform advocacy on behalf of small businesses.	\$52,823.40	\$50,621.90	Approved
823	2015/16	Canegrowers	Canegrowers response to QCA Draft Determination – regulated retail electricity prices 2016-17	To pursue the development of a suite of network tariffs to meet the needs of food and fibre producers using Ergon's network, particularly irrigators.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Approved
824	2015/16	Hobart City Council	Helping Tasmanian local government to understand	To build the evidence base for community energy based	\$9,900.00		No

			their households and small businesses energy use	advocacy and programs by local governments, by clarifying roles and responsibilities and developing methodologies to understand community energy use and behaviours.			
826	2015/16	Major Energy Users Inc	Developing strategic and collaborative approach to influencing change in the SA wholesale energy market to address high electricity prices	To build capacity with all project participants through information sharing to achieve lower electricity prices in SA, through working with govt and regulators to effect policy change.	\$32,600.00		No
829	2015/16	Major Energy Users Inc	Testing the advantages of the new approach to network revenue resets	Evaluation of the new approach proposed by Electranet to its revenue reset provides a better outcome for consumers than the “conventional” method.	\$84,000.00		No
830	2015/16	Backroad Connections	Determining full economic value of feed-in tariffs for solar PV in Tasmania	To commission an expert analysis of the impact of higher FiT rates to assess the full cost and benefit of various levels of increased FiT.	\$9,750.00		No
831	2015/16	Australian PV Institute	CEO GRANT Response to Aurora Energy 2016 retail priced determination draft standing offer price strategy resubmission	To respond to OTTER Consultation Paper on the Aurora Energy 2016 Retail Price Determination, to support the introduction of effective cost reflective pricing.	\$4,300.00		Withdrawn