


Grants

Backing bright ideas



The national voice
for household and
small business
energy consumers.

**Grants Program
Annual Report
Supplementary
Information**

**20
25**

Table of contents

Introduction	3
Grants Program	3
Key Themes	4

Energy Consumers Australia respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We recognise their connection and continuous care for the lands and waters where we live, learn, and work.

Introduction

The purpose of the Energy Consumers Australia Grants Program is to support advocates, organisations, and ideas that will advance the interests of household and small business consumers in the National Electricity Market.

Our Grants Program is divided into the following sub-programs:

1. **Influence Grants** – support advocacy and research initiatives with a purpose of immediate influence on a specific and achievable goal regarding matters of material significance to residential and small business consumers.
2. **Collaboration Grants** – funding for complex, multi-year projects working in partnership with ECA. Projects will typically be ambitious, recognising that pathways to success are negotiated and developed over time.
3. **Participation Grants** – provide up to \$15,000 to enable residential or small business consumer advocacy by participation in current or forthcoming government, regulatory, or industry decision-making processes, or for small, targeted research projects.
4. **Gill Owen Scholarship** – supports an individual to travel internationally to research innovative ideas and initiatives that will be relevant to improving outcomes for consumers in the Australian energy market.
5. **Kelvin Trimper Scholarship** (in partnership with South Australian Power Networks) – provides funding of up to \$10,000 to build knowledge and/or improve access to programs or initiatives that will achieve improved consumer outcomes, in a dynamic and changing Australian energy market.

In FY25, our Board approved 11 Influence and Collaboration Grant applications. The total funding approved over the year across all programs was \$2.13 million.

The projects we support through grant funding play a vital role in shaping our advocacy efforts for households and small businesses. Insights and data gathered from these initiatives, alongside our own research, underpin the briefings, submissions, and presentations we deliver to industry and government stakeholders.

A full list of our grants is [available on our website](#), and we look forward to new applications and opportunities to collaborate in FY26.

Grants Program

Our Grants Program attracted significant interest, with 54 applications received in FY25. Grants that we fund will align with our targets in our [3-Year-Plan](#).

We received a mix of applications from existing recipients as well as new organisations, which is consistent with our bid to support emerging advocates to grow their impact. Successful new approved applicants included Community Power Agency and the Committee for Sydney.

We also saw some grant recipients from the past re-engage and submit applications, including the Australian Council of Social Service, who secured funding for a project investigating the health and financial impacts of energy inefficient homes. Analysis of previous successful grant applications has identified that the earlier an applicant engages with us, the higher their chance of success. The increase in both the number and quality of applications is a direct result of our ongoing commitment to engage broadly across the community and research sectors and our policy team's commitment to help strengthen applications before their submission.

Communicating the impact of grant projects

We understand that clearly communicating a project's impact to a wide audience is essential—but not all applicants have the internal resources to do so. To support this, successful grantees now have access to guidance from our Public Affairs and Strategy team throughout the life of their project. Each project is now also assigned a policy partner to offer guidance to each grantee with their work.

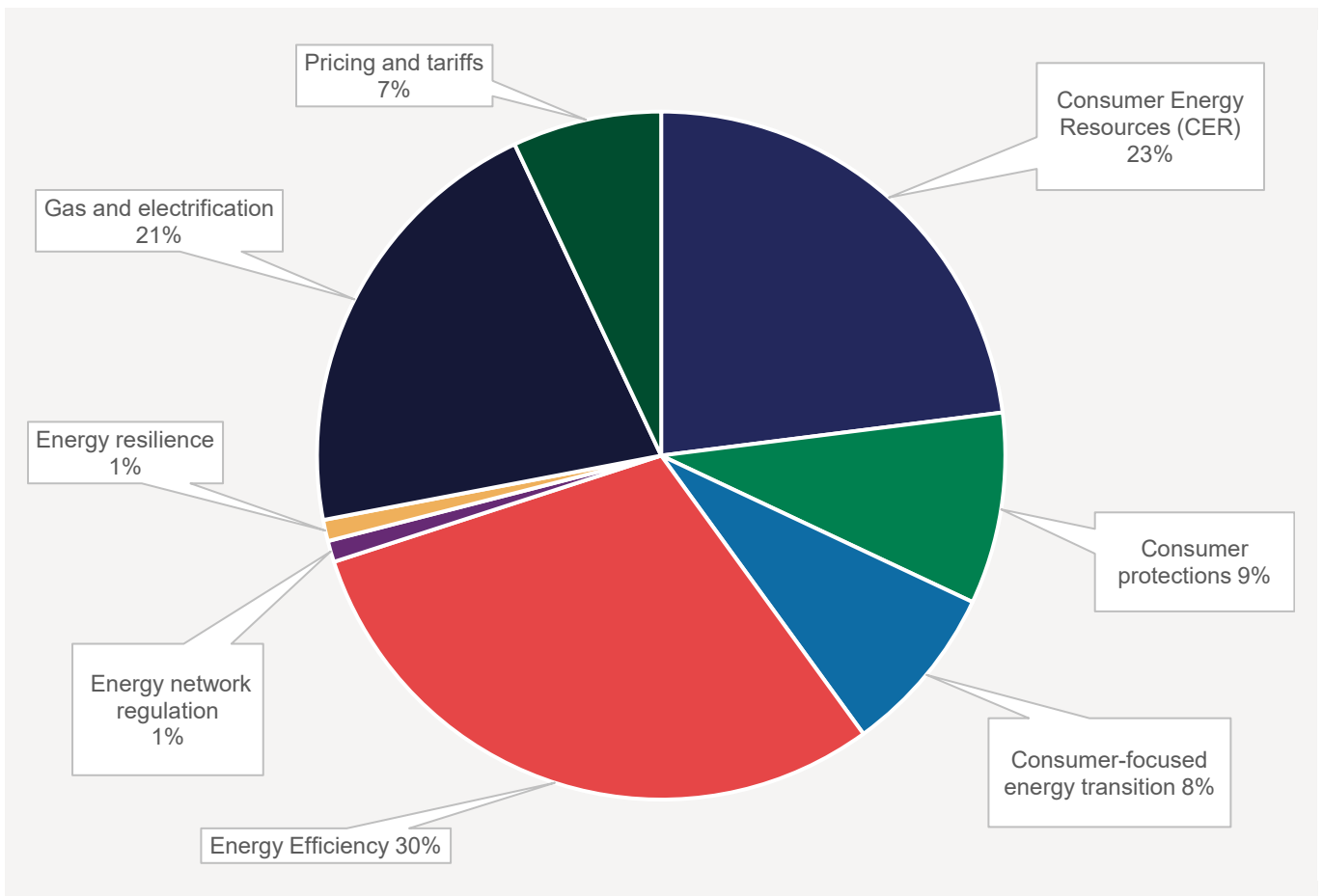
This collaboration has fostered a shared understanding of output timelines and helped grantees identify the most effective channels for sharing their findings and outcomes.

Key Themes

This report is a supplement to our Annual Report and highlights the Grants Program outcomes in FY25. The following is a summary of the key themes of program funding this year and over the life of the scheme.

The highest proportion of applications in FY25 were for projects focused on Consumer Energy Resources and energy efficiency (see Figure 1), while projects that investigated consumer issues and interests in the energy transition were an emerging theme of applications.

Figure 1: Grant funding by theme (FY25)



Gill Owen Scholarship - Advancing a national strategy for a democratised and just transition by integrating local and community-led energy solutions

Madison Sturgess, Clean Energy Project Lead at Original Power, was awarded the 2024 Gill Owen Scholarship. Through the scholarship, Madison travelled to the United Kingdom to explore well-established community energy initiatives. Over more than a decade, the United Kingdom Government has supported community energy strategies and smart energy innovations by coordinating enabling resources, regulation, and partnerships.

In contrast, Australian transition strategies remain largely uncoordinated, lacking the mechanisms to enable flexible, democratised, or just consumer participation. Drawing on her learnings from the United Kingdom, Madison considered how these international strategies could be adapted to strengthen energy outcomes for First Nations and regional communities in Australia.

Her insights have fed directly into the advocacy work of Original Power and First Nations Clean Energy Network with federal and state governments and energy providers. Crucially, this work is helping First Nations communities to identify and pursue opportunities for ownership, participation, and increased energy security. Madison also shared the findings of her research at our 2025 Foresighting Forum.

Figure 2: Grant funding by jurisdiction

This year, almost all (98 per cent) of grant funding was awarded to projects with relevance nationally or in a number of jurisdictions, consistent with our focus on issues of material impact to households and small businesses.

While we understand that each state and territory can have its own specific energy challenges, our aim is to concentrate on national initiatives that offer insights across multiple regions.

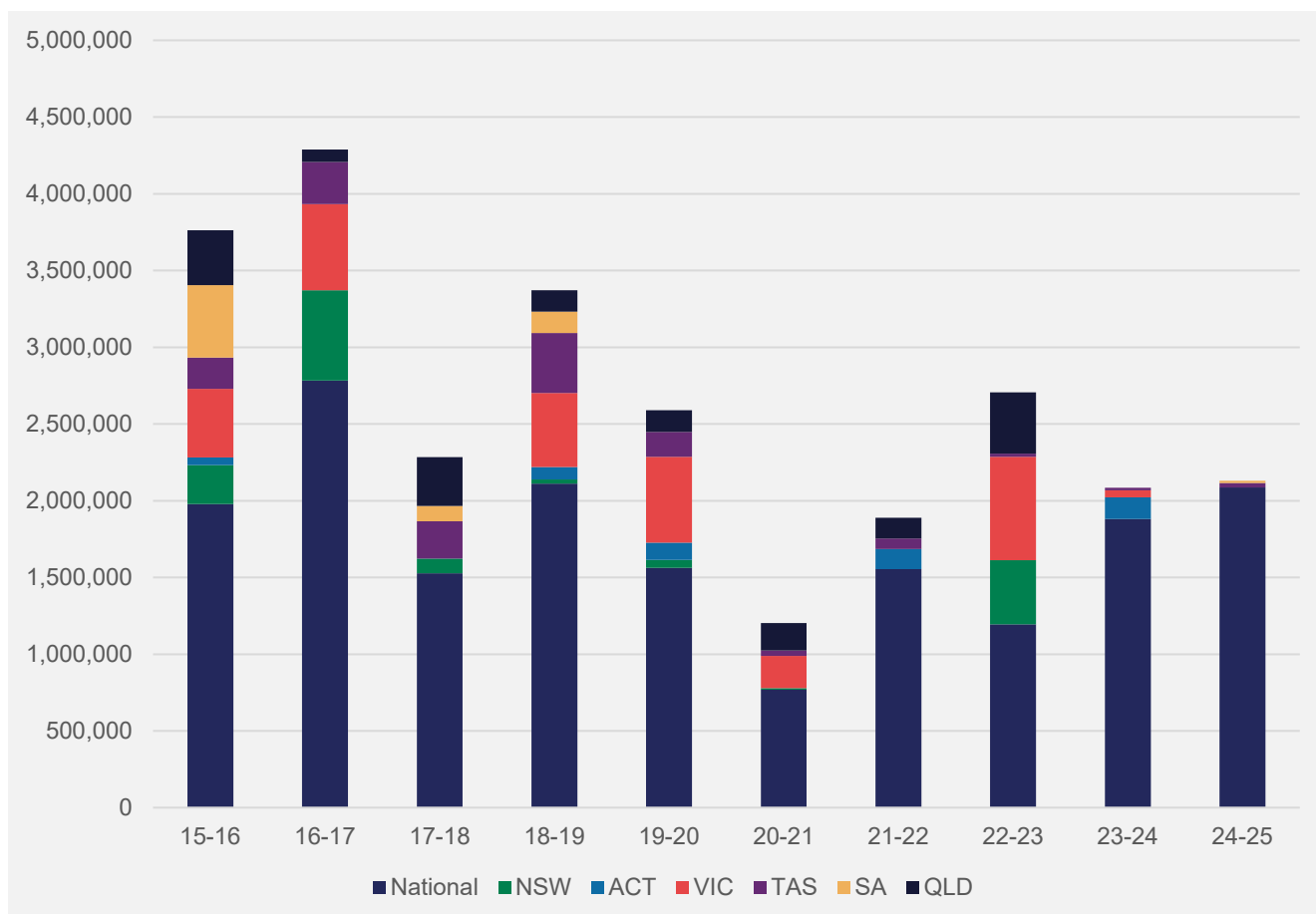
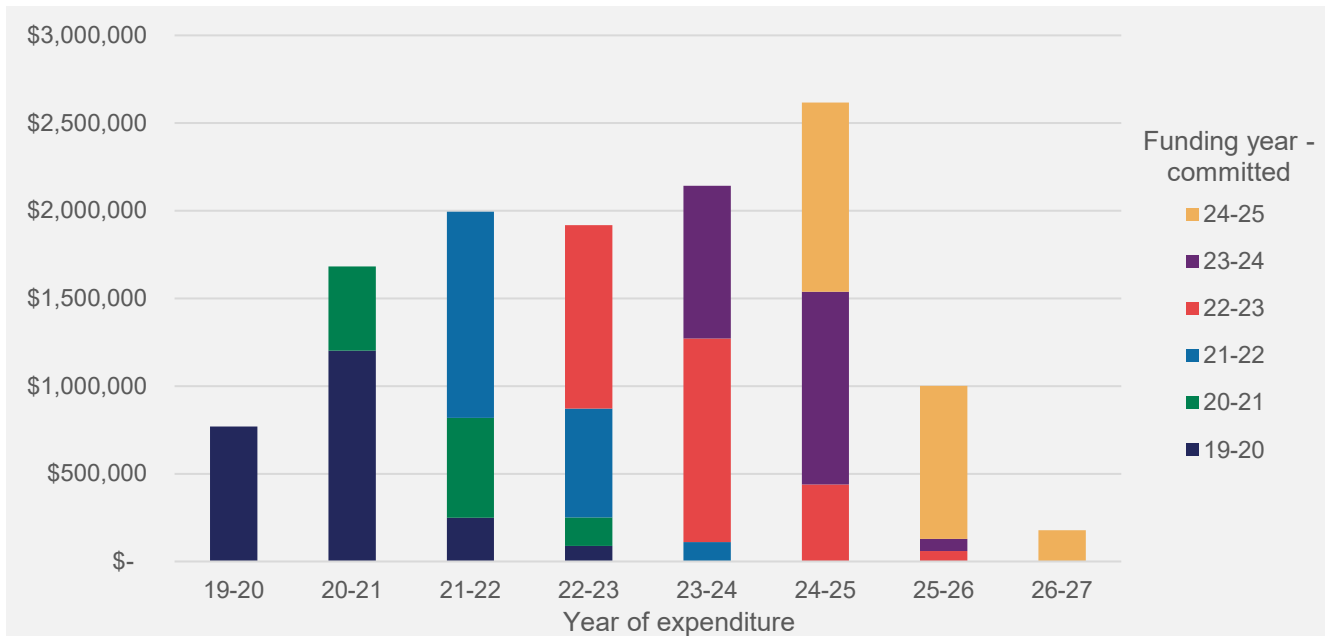
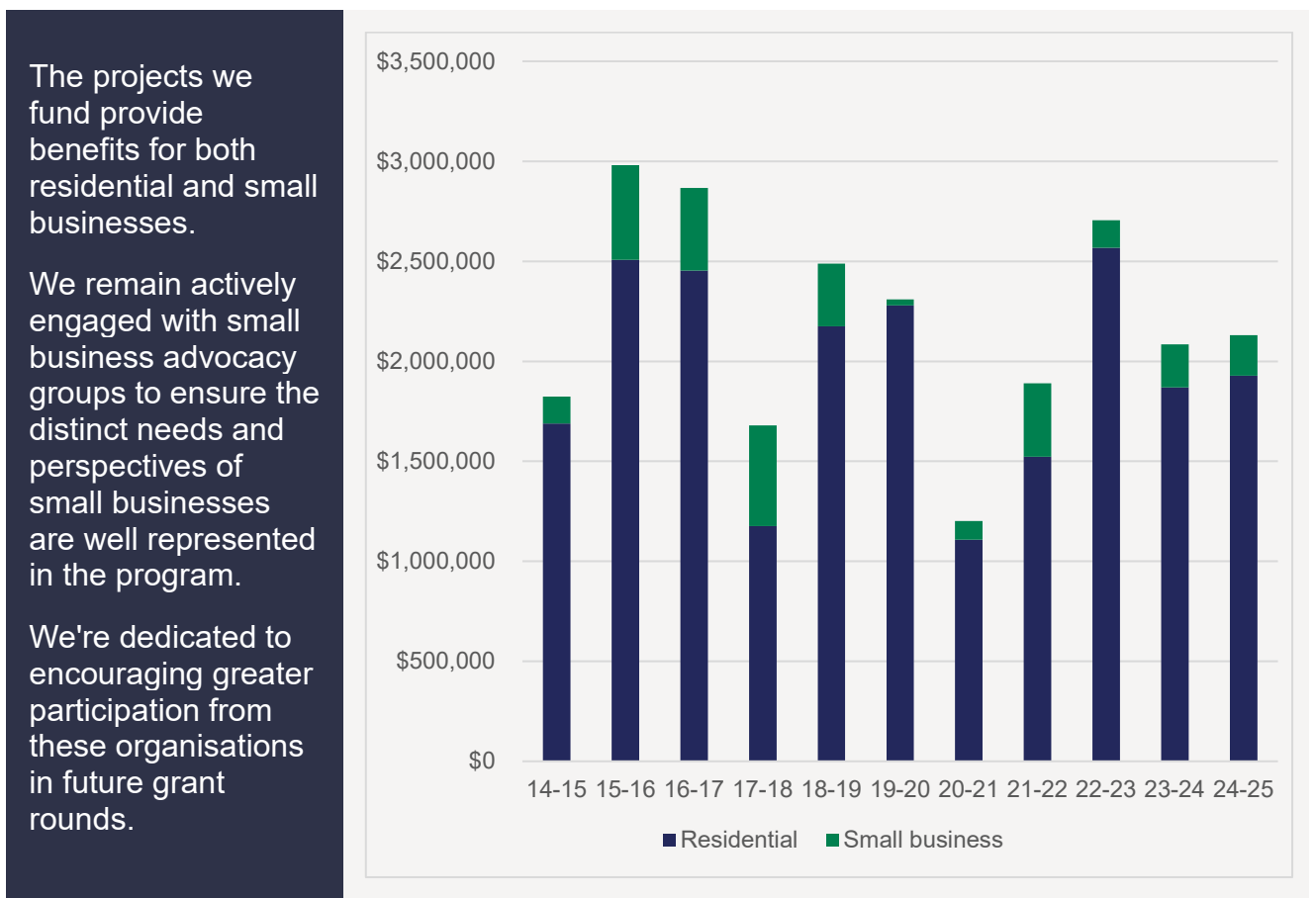


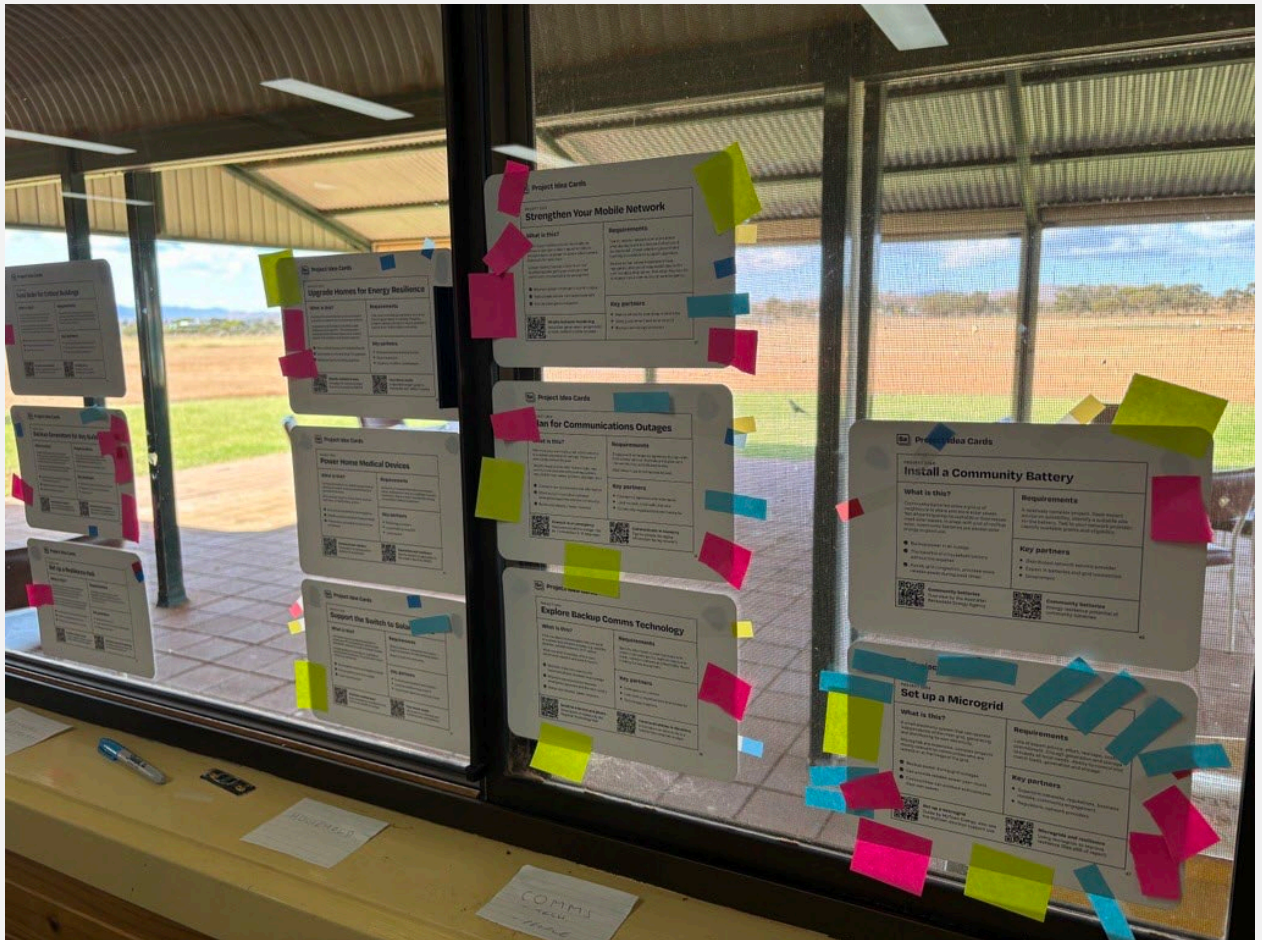
Figure 3: Annual financial commitments FY2019-2027



Each year, we make significant financial commitments to support impactful projects through our Grants Program. Recognising that long-term planning is essential for many organisations, we fund multi-year complex projects. This approach enables grantees to allocate resources with confidence, pursue ambitious goals, and deliver sustained outcomes over time.

Figure 4: Grants by consumer type





Building regional resilience by understanding energy insecurity in the Flinders Ranges

The Flinders Ranges and Northern Flinders Ranges were struck by a supercell storm in October 2024 causing residents to lose power for up to one week. The impacts on the community were significant: people lost food, were unable to heat or cool their homes, faced high fuel costs to run personal generators, and in some cases, lost essential medicine that needed refrigeration.

We funded the First Nations Clean Energy Network to run a workshop in Hawker, South Australia, to consider how to build energy resilience in the region. The meeting brought together residents, First Nations people, and small business owners, in addition to state government representatives, network, telecommunication and emergency response providers. This was the first time such a comprehensive group of stakeholders gathered in the region.

During the workshop, participants used the Energy Ready Toolkit – a resource to guide communities through the process of planning for, coping with, and bouncing back from climate-related weather events that disrupt their energy supply – to help guide discussions on possible solutions. The Toolkit was developed with funding from our grants program last year.

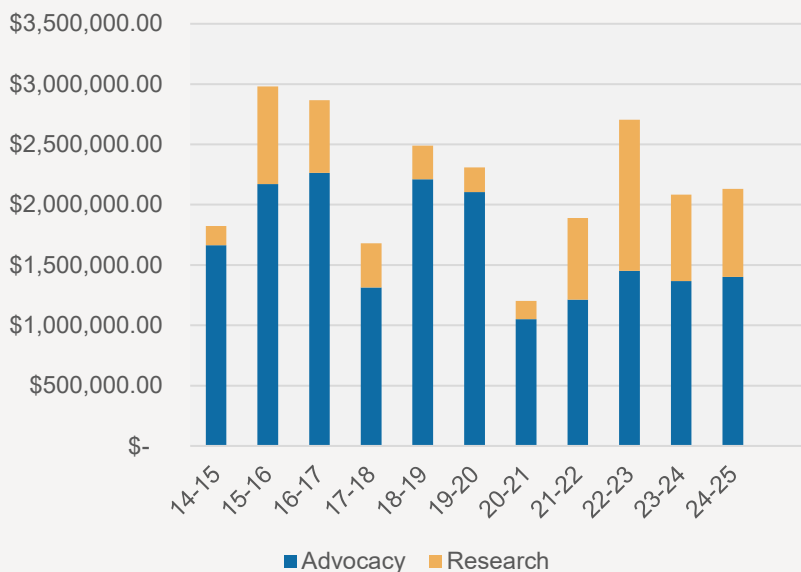
Building energy resilience doesn't happen overnight, but this workshop was an important first step on that journey and has laid strong foundations for ongoing collaboration and action in the Flinders Ranges region.

Figure 5: Grants by type

We're proud to fund a diverse range of research and advocacy projects that drive meaningful change across the energy sector.

These initiatives explore innovative solutions to complex challenges, inform policy development, and amplify the voices of underrepresented communities.

Advocacy initiatives work to achieve change by seeking to influence public policy whilst research projects provide evidence-based insights and data that will support advocacy efforts and inform stakeholders.



Rewiring Australia – Finance policy options for electrification

While many Australians want to start their electrification journey and access the long-term financial benefits, the upfront costs are a significant hurdle. As a result, many people, especially those on lower incomes, are missing out on opportunities to cut their energy bill and have more energy efficient, and thus more comfortable, housing.

To address this, Rewiring Australia developed several innovative financing models to enable all property owners to electrify their home – regardless of their circumstances. The proposed Electrify Everything Loans Scheme (EELS) is the culmination of this work. It recommends homeowners could be provided with a government-backed loan, that is secured on the property, to help electrify their homes. Households would receive funds to install solar, batteries, EV charging, water heating, induction cooktops, split system air-conditioning, and home efficiency upgrades. The loan would be indexed to inflation and households would wait to pay it back until they can afford to do so, choose to make repayments, or wait until they sell their house.

EELS is bold in its scope and ask, signalling that electrification should be considered as a nation building investment akin to education, healthcare, and other public infrastructure. To function properly, the scheme will require \$2.8 billion over three years. This will deliver monumental savings to consumers, who could reap \$1.17 trillion in savings by 2050. Rewiring is continuing its engagement and building out the next phase of the project.

**The national voice for
household and small business
energy consumers**

**20
25**



PO Box A989,
Sydney South NSW 1235
T 02 9220 5500

energyconsumersaustralia.com.au