

Board Communique: April 2019

The Energy Consumers Australia Board met on 11 April 2019

Board Meeting, 11 April 2019

The Board was pleased to consider another strong round of grant applications, the second round for the 2018/19 year. In this round 18 applications were received with the total request for funding of around \$1.9 million for projects with a total cost of around \$2.5 million. The Board approved nine grants.

The Grants Program is shaped by demand seen through applications for funding. The Board noted this round included strong applications focused on consumer advocacy around electricity network charges to consumers and managing the growth of distributed energy. There was a continued emphasis on energy affordability and vulnerable consumers as well as building capacity for advocates through evidence gathering research and projects.

The Board also reviewed the outputs of a number of previously approved grant programs and noted the strong achievements of a number of advocates and researchers with the support of the grants program. In particular, the Board was pleased to see the impact of grant projects including the provision of new evidence in public debates on energy, impacting government policies around energy concessions and affordability, supporting advocacy through technical analysis of capital spending proposals and strengthening advocacy by small business organisations.

The Board wishes to thank all applicants for the effort in preparing their applications in a highly competitive grants program.

Grants approved:

- Brotherhood of St Laurence - *Consumer input into the 2020 regulatory reset for Victorian electricity networks*
- South Australian Financial Counsellors Association - *Consumer Scrutiny of SA Power Networks (SAPN) 2020-25 Determination*
- Dynamic Analysis - *A blueprint to lower energy prices*
- Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd - *Perspectives on Moreland Power: A vulnerable consumer perspective on renewable energy program models*
- Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd - *Everyday People – Connecting with people on both sides of the digital divide*
- St Vincent De Paul Society - Queensland - *Home Energy Management Services (for consumers in hardship)*
- Renew - *DER Export Management Advocacy Project*
- Engineroom Consulting – *Predicting the emergence of battery systems at a residential and wholesale level and policy implications for consumers*
- Total Environment Centre – *Community batteries: A new piece of the energy equity puzzle*