

**Energy Consumers Australia Board Meeting Communiqué
15 October 2015**

ECA Research: Consumer Engagement

The Board considered the report on Consumer Consultation in the Energy Sector, by Ketih Besgrove, and discussed its recommendations, agreeing that their future development be incorporated into ECA's work program.

The report can be viewed at ECA's website [here](#).

CEO Grants Program

The Board agreed to create a new grants program that will complement ECA's quarterly grants rounds, to provide timely approval by the CEO for small grants to a maximum amount of \$10,000 (exc GST).

Grants will be provided for

- Consumer engagement grants: To facilitate consumer engagement and advocacy in government, regulatory or industry decision-making processes
- International scholarships program: providing a grant to consumer advocates/researchers to research consumer roles, activities policies and programs that could be implemented in Australia.

ECA is developing a streamlined application process, which will be published shortly on its website.

Grants approved

At this meeting, the Board approved the following grants:

- AP 752 – Public Interest Advocacy Centre – variation to the grant for limited merits review of NSW network determinations (additional \$33,500 exc GST)
- AP 755 – Australian PV Institute – Advocacy for PV Consumers (\$28,250 exc GST)
- AP 766 – South Australian Council of Social Service – initial engagement in the Australian Competition Tribunal merits review process (\$48,400 exc GST)
- AP 768 – Total Environment Centre – SA Power Networks merit review intervention as amicus curiae (\$17,595 exc GST)

A full list of ECA grants can be seen at its [website](#).