

# Eligibility and Selection Criteria

**Table 1: Eligibility criteria**

All applications must meet this criterion to be eligible for funding.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	HOW ECA WILL ASSESS ELIGIBILITY
1. Build knowledge and/or sectoral capacity supporting policy development and consumer education in the National Energy Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project proposal demonstrates some of following               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o how proposed change to policy, regulation or practices will benefit consumers</li> <li>o how project will build the capacity of consumers and/or consumer advocates</li> <li>o how the project may empower consumers</li> <li>o how project will influence decision makers</li> <li>o (RES) how the project will inform/support advocacy</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Will the project produce or contribute to the robust evidence to support advocacy?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o alignment with ECA value to promote strong and evidence-based advocacy</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Benefits to consumers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Size of consumer class</li> <li>o Potential to improve situation of those consumers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 2: Selection criteria**

Set out below are the selection criteria against which all applications for ECA grants will be assessed. For a project proposal to be considered for a grant, it must meet most of the criteria. The criteria are not ranked – so for example, compliance with criterion 9 is as important as compliance with criterion 1.

SELECTION CRITERIA	HOW ECA WILL ASSESS PROJECTS AGAINST THE SELECTION CRITERIA (‘ADV’ REFERS TO ADVOCACY AND ‘RES’ TO RESEARCH PROJECTS)
1. Align with ECA strategic priorities. 2. For other priorities, including jurisdiction priorities, outline why A) the work is a priority and B) its material impact on consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarity of objectives of planned project</li> <li>- Match with ECA strategic priority                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o alignment with ECA value to promote strong and evidence-based advocacy</li> </ul> </li> <li>- If not, rationale made by applicant that the work is a priority                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o has the applicant adequately explained the extent of the problem and/or consumer detriment?</li> <li>o Has the applicant provided information on the material impact of the project on the targeted consumers?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3. Build capacity for future advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Demonstrating value to the organization</li> <li>b. Demonstrating value to the sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity of organisation to deliver project outcome(s)</li> <li>- Organisation’s expertise (or potential to acquire)</li> <li>- Organisation network – capacity to build new and/or leverage existing partnerships/coalitions with advocates/decision-makers</li> <li>- Project methodology and proposed outputs will deliver/contribute to achievement of outcomes</li> <li>- Mechanisms to share project findings/learnings with ECA and other advocates                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o alignment with ECA value to promote coordinated and collegiate advocacy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4. Be relevant to a national energy market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (ADV) Correct identification of potential influencers and decision-makers, as well as the forums/opportunities to advocate for change                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o alignment with ECA value to promote strong and evidence-based advocacy</li> </ul> </li> <li>- (RES) Correct identification of potential influencers and decision-makers, as well as the forums/opportunities to disseminate project findings</li> <li>- Or partnerships with advocates to facilitate dissemination of project findings</li> </ul>

<b>SELECTION CRITERIA</b>	<b>HOW ECA WILL ASSESS PROJECTS AGAINST THE SELECTION CRITERIA (‘ADV’ REFERS TO ADVOCACY AND ‘RES’ TO RESEARCH PROJECTS)</b>
5. Offer value for money: the benefits should outweigh the costs, and costs should be prudent and minimised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budget demonstrates consideration of most effective and efficient way to achieve outcome</li> <li>- Methodology and budget appropriately aligned</li> </ul>
6. Offer partnership opportunities where possible with ECA and/or other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extent to which applicant plans to build new and/or leverage existing partnerships/coalitions with advocates/decision-makers                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o alignment with ECA value to promote coordinated and collegiate advocacy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7. Provide a co-contribution, and a rationale for the provision of ECA funding (ECA will consider the organisation’s or its members’ ability to meet the project costs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact of the project outcome compared to the project cost</li> <li>- Assessment of organisation’s resources able to be committed to the project</li> </ul>
8. Provide a viable project plan, outlining the intended outcomes and success indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Soundness of organisation/project governance, management and organisational structures</li> <li>- Calibre and experience of key staff members</li> <li>- Quality of consultants</li> <li>- Applicant’s track record</li> </ul>