

## Board Communique: October 2023

**The Energy Consumers Australia Board met in-person and via video conference on 19 October 2023.**

### Grants Meeting

Energy Consumers Australia's Grants Program received a number of quality applications for this round of funding. The Board met on 19 October to assess the applications received, which covered a range of issues but all aimed to benefit the long-term interests of energy consumers. The Board wishes to congratulate the four successful applicants for their proposals. These projects are outlined below:

#### **University of Melbourne**

**Consumer advocacy for a least-cost energy transition: capacity building with a consumer-first lens**

**\$258,317**

This project looks to increase the capacity of our energy advocacy community and to encourage new consumer voices. It will look to upskill advocates using a 'training the trainer' program to improve their impact and influence and knowledge of complex energy system areas such as network pricing, energy tariffs, policy and regulatory reviews. The program seeks not only to support participants to better advocate for under-represented consumer groups, but also to enable them to empower consumers to make good decisions for themselves.

#### **Rewiring Australia**

**Designing, modelling and advocating for finance policy options to drive inclusive household electrification**

**\$195,915**

Rewiring Australia will work with academics, public policy and finance experts to develop policy frameworks and detailed modelling to support government policy decision-making. The project will focus on finding ways to reduce the barriers to providing accessible finance measures for household electrification for people on low, fixed or precarious incomes, those with poor credit ratings and renters. The project will model the investment required at a household and macro level as well as the associated economic benefits of different electrification finance models.

#### **Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA)**

**Small Steps Bright Future: Supporting small business toward net zero and beyond**

**\$200,000**

This project seeks to fill a critical gap for industry, regulators and policy makers by identifying the risk-factors for small businesses facing energy hardship. The project will develop tailored support tools and early intervention strategies to help improve the energy efficiency of small businesses and lower energy costs in the transition to net zero.

#### **University of Technology, Sydney – Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF)**

**Reimagining network utilisation in the era of consumer energy resources**

**\$100,000**

The University of Technology, Sydney will develop new metrics to update 'network utilisation' to be fit for purpose as a means to measure and improve network productivity, critical to enable lower total cost of energy as consumers adopt solar and electrify their homes and cars. This project will kick-start and shape a policy dialogue on the networks' role in efficiently facilitating two-way flows and energy, in the interests of all consumers.

For more information about the Energy Consumers Australia Grants Program, how to apply and eligibility criteria visit the Energy Consumers Australia [website](#).

The website also has [Grants Priority Issues factsheets](#), which help potential grant applicants to understand the issues of interest to the organisation.