



ATA Advocacy Report 1: for Project 127

For the 4-months from August – November, 2005

Advocacy activity undertaken by ATA under funding from the National Consumers Electricity Advocacy Panel funded project 127. This activity was undertaken for the first four month project period, commencing August 2005 until the end of November 2005.

Advocacy completed:

- Assisted the development of the objectives of the Renewable Energy Action Agenda for the forthcoming year. This now includes actions aimed at information dissemination for small renewable energy systems and incorporating and developing demand side response into buildings.
- Prepare and attend meeting between Victorian DB's, system installers and ESC. The objective was to kick off discussion and obtain agreement concerning:
 - The requirement for active wiring back to the electricity meter. This is currently being required only by CitiPower and ATA believes is an unnecessary impediment to grid connection (and costs).
 - The cost of meter replacement and project fee for small grid connect systems. There is currently little consistency or adherence to such a standard across Victorian DB's.

This forum was successful in sharing understanding and clarifies the ESC position on these issues. The forum has been scheduled to reconvene in November to follow-up on these issues and also discuss other related issues. It was agreed that this forum was interested in stream lining the current connection agreements and this will be the topic of future meetings.

- The Sustainable Energy Authority of Victoria is currently preparing a paper identifying the barriers and proposing solutions to encourage the uptake of small renewable energy systems. Met with SEAV and provided an overview of the grid connection issues, as documented in ATA's previous research report, *Impediments to Grid Connection*.
- Submission to SA Greenhouse Strategy focusing on the barriers to small renewable and the need to remove these barriers to allow increased uptake of distributed generation technology necessary to achieve the Greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Publication of information concerning the barriers to grid connection in CUAC's Quarterly Magazine and ATA's website as well as answering specific grid connection related queries from ATA members, the general public and installers.