

Ms Leisl Baumgartner  
Senior Director - Policy  
Australian Energy Market Commission  
Level 16  
1 Margaret Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

RECEIVED

13 JAN 2006

Dear Ms Baumgartner


**Re: Consumer Advocacy Rule Change Proposal**

I understand the AEMC requires clarification as to the intent of the MCE in relation to the above Rule change proposal which implements interim arrangements for the electricity advocacy panel until the long term model is implemented through legislation.

The policy behind the rule change is for the AEMC to have additional functions and powers to appoint and remove members of the advocacy panel and issue guidelines concerning the appointment of members. Before the AEMC exercises these powers, the policy intention is for the MCE to have an opportunity to collectively come to a view on the issues and advise the AEMC of this view.

We believe that the intent of the proposal for the interim arrangements can be achieved within the current legislative framework by requiring that the AEMC consult with the Ministers of the National Electricity Market participating jurisdictions and have regard to any views expressed. The MCE Secretariat will be available to facilitate consultation with these Ministers.

Yours sincerely

  
Marie Taylor  
General Manager  
MCE Secretariat  
9 January 2005