

CUAC GRANTS 2002/3 to 2009/10

PUBLIC GRANTS				
Round	FY	Grant Recipient	Project Focus	\$ (GST-exclusive)
1	2002-03	Council to Homeless Persons	Improve options and outcomes for homeless in regard to responsible access and payment for utilities, through research into issues raised by Retail Code with regard to residents in Transitional Housing Arrangements.	25,000
1	2002-03	Customer Energy Coalition	Detailed assessment of customer impacts of 2000 Electricity Distribution Price Review – non revenue requirement aspects. Project Manager: Energy Action Group	22,000
1	2002-03	Customer Energy Coalition	Analysis of incentive regulation regime effect on supply reliability with rural/regional case studies collected.	15,000
1	2002-03	Kildonan Child & Family Services	Publication for young people leaving home covering the range of utility consumer issues (rights and responsibilities, how to connect, how to be financially aware, shared housing, understanding contracts etc).	22,528
1	2002-03	Our Energy Inc	To identify reasons for lack of retailer response to aggregation of 2500 residential, 400 farm and 400 small business users.	5,000
2	2002-03	City of Darebin	Electricity aggregation seminar to provide an overview of barriers, opportunities and general experience of aggregation groups.	8,200
2	2002-03	Consumer Law Centre Victoria and Centre for the Study of Privatisation and Public Accountability	An independent and comprehensive analysis of who has benefited from market reforms and to what extent, and to ensure that further market reform is structured in a way that is fully informed of these consumer outcomes.	30,000
2	2002-03	Energy Users Association Australia and Energy Action Group	To define how to re-apply the urban/rural cross-subsidy to ensure (1) the best value to rural customers for new and replacement installations and (2) a small price reduction for urban customers.	15,000
2	2002-03	Headberry Partners P/L	To assess the impact of interval metering on full retail competition and demand side responses.	22,000
2	2002-03	Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau	Production of case-studies on experience of low-income consumers.	6,364
2	2002-03	Swinburne University	To gauge the effects of competition between housing and utility costs in low-income households and to propose strategies for ensuring supply at adequate and affordable levels.	7,371

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3	2003-04	Alternative Technology Association	Build consumer capacity on network connection and pricing barriers to small scale renewable embedded generators.	21,040
3	2003-04	Child and Family Services Ballarat	Analysis of needs, issues and levels of disadvantage in relation to provision of utilities in Ararat, including price, fuel choice, levels of debt, extent of competition.	25,000
3	2003-04	Consumer Law Centre Victoria and Environment Victoria	Analysis of civil society interests regarding access to water, incorporating consumer and human rights perspective.	25,000
3	2003-04	EUAA / EAG	Consumer Impact of VENCORP Gas System Pricing and Balance Review.	10,000
4	2003-04	Consumer Law Centre Victoria	Provide funding for water Policy Officer to provide expert research, policy development, advocacy, education and participation in consultative processes. Focus on low-income and disadvantaged consumers	24,314
4	2003-04	La Trobe University Wodonga Campus	Detail values that rural communities in NE Victoria assign to water and wastewater services, measure and quantify values and attributes of services, and use information to improve community capacity to influence water policy choices	16,818
4	2003-04	Moreland Energy Foundation (MEFL)	Funding for advocacy strategy and public workshop, relating to a NEM Advocacy Panel-funded project to research demand-side responsiveness and recommend changes to the NEC	22,500
4	2003-04	Swinburne University	To research, quantify and assess the price benefits (or dis-benefits) obtained by customers who have switched retailers since FRC	20,454
4	2003-04	Victorian Council of Social Service	Funding of Energy Campaign Officer to coordinate community sector campaign on fuel poverty alleviation and prevention, and enhance capacity of VCOSS membership to engage in energy and water issues	25,000
5	2004-05	Chronic Illness Alliance	To improve information on customer rights and support services available to health service providers and welfare agencies dealing with consumers suffering from chronic illness, in greater Geelong/Colac area and among CIA membership	20,400
5	2004-05	City of Greater Bendigo	Provision of data to ESC on accuracy of loss factor calculations as provided by the retailer, and quantification of business energy management practices	15,000

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5	2004-05	Victorian Council of Social Service	Funding of Energy Campaign Officer to coordinate community sector campaign on fuel poverty alleviation and prevention, and enhance capacity of VCOSS membership to engage in energy and water issues	27,380
6	2004-05	Antur Projects	To identify the technical, regulatory and fiscal requirements for developing a community owned and operated electricity system with the ultimate objective of developing a "how to" guide for development of community based electricity system.	7,000
6	2004-05	Centre for Regulatory Studies, Monash University	Research on international best practice models of consumer consultation.	24,310
6	2004-05	Financial and Consumer Rights Council (FCRC)	The project will develop targeted information in a variety of languages on energy for low-income households, working with the clients of financial counsellors and the FCRC membership to develop the material.	25,000
6	2004-05	Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau	Training for local utility and local African migrant community work to develop programs and strategies to assist that community. Research to be undertaken in conjunction with EWOV and AGL.	24,140
7	2005-06	Alternative Technology Association	Response to the EPA/DHS Review of Urban Water Sources Regulation, and advocacy for simpler approach to the use of grey water	6,960
7	2005-06	Australian Business Council for Sustainable Energy	Development of agreed protocols, consistent approach and pricing mechanisms to facilitate the connection of renewable energy systems to the Victorian grid.	25,130
7	2005-06	Consumer Law Centre Victoria	Measuring the impact on consumers of the Water Prices Determination of 2005, focusing on the interests of low-income and rural consumers and the ESC's treatment of social and environmental factors, in order to determine how consumer interests should be reflected in the next review.	15,000
7	2005-06	La Trobe University Wodonga Campus	Research to identify the level of 'discretionary' water use by rural/metropolitan water users, and on the redistribution effects of altered developer charges.	20,455
7	2005-06	Monash University (Gippsland Campus)	Assess the extent to which small businesses are participating and faring in a competitive energy retail market.	23,740

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8	2005-06	Centre for Regional Innovation and Competitiveness, University of Ballarat	Compare the total socio-economic costs and benefits of water reform in rural areas of Victoria.	18,180
8	2005-06	Centre for Regulatory Studies, Monash University	Examine the global lessons from recent debates around the accountability practices and demands of central regulatory agencies, and articulate these in the context of improving the accountability practices of Australian utility regulators.	24,310
8	2005-06	Deakin University (Geelong Campus)	Evaluate households willingness to pay for water service attributes in Victoria	22,665
8	2005-06	People First - Total Solutions	To identify the impact of the Energy Retail Code on low income and financially disadvantaged consumers in rural and urban Victoria.	9,000
9	2006-07	La Trobe University - Wodonga Campus	Review the application of demogrants internationally with particular emphasis on the water sector.	17,852
9	2006-07	Monash University, Centre for Regulatory Studies	The primary objectives of the project are to provide a one day workshop for expert commentary on the environmental impact of electricity supply and use and facilitate discussion on the ramifications of unsustainable consumption for current and future consumers.	24,200
9	2006-07	Tenants Union of Victoria	To improve the effectiveness of energy and water provision to low-income households in rented premises by: Making submissions to relevant ESC reviews and processes including: small scale licensing review implementation, financial hardship review implementation, licensing framework review, customer education and information, water price review & tariff proposals. Reviewing and reporting on rental housing standards issues affecting energy consumption and liaising with relevant Government authorities.	20,680
9	2006-07	Victorian Farmers Federation	This project will provide information for use in the development of pricing models for the future usage of recycled water in agriculture/horticulture production. The aim of the project is to assist rural users to make informed decisions about the usage of recycled water in their farming practices.	19,930
Grand Total				\$759,920

CUAC INITIATED RESEARCH

FY	Grant Recipient	Project Focus	\$ (GST-exclusive)
2003-04	Committee for Melbourne, in partnership with CUAC and others	Collaborative project involving government, industry and the community to identify ways to help prevent low-income consumers in hardship, focusing on the viability of utilities bills as a possible early warning system.	20,000
2002/03	Consumer Law Centre Victoria	Report on experiences of utility consumers who have been disconnected or faced access restrictions.	23,200
2002/03	Denis Nelthorpe Consulting	Establishment of a Rural and Regional Network.	22,727
2003-04	Denis Nelthorpe Consulting	Secretariat role for Rural Energy Consumers Forum.	7,000
2005-06	Denis Nelthorpe Consulting	Research to examine the process by which determinations of the Essential Services Commission are reviewed. The primary task of the project is to analyse and assess whether, or how, appeal arrangements can ensure consumer standing in the process and enhance consumer outcomes through minimising the risk of 'gaming' by regulated monopolies.	19,000
2004-05	JayCee Asia Pacific Consulting Pty Ltd	Research to elicit implications for consumers from Government's proposed changes to cross-ownership rules in energy.	21,600
2003-04	Monash University Centre for the Study of Privatisation and Public Accountability	Research into possible scenarios for Victorian utility consumers of the removal and/or modification of the existing safety net provisions, in order for consumers to make well-informed contributions to the ESC's Review of the Effectiveness of Full Retail Competition	14,775
2003-04	SED Consulting	Research into Indigenous utility consumer issues. Documenting the extent of disconnections, use of refundable advances and access to customer assistance schemes in Indigenous communities.	15,000
2005-06	Shire of Campaspe-CUAC	Joint research project with Shire of Campaspe to assess effectiveness of the policy and regulatory mechanisms available to a community to secure improved electricity supply, using Shire of Campaspe as a test case.	15,000
2006-07	First Principles Pty Ltd	Research into the structure of reference tariffs for gas in Victoria over the regulatory period 2003-2007. The primary task of the project is to analyse and explain the extent of the divergence in gas reference tariffs.	20,000
2007-08	ESRC Centre for Competition Policy , University of East Anglia	Written paper and presentation at the CUAC Expert Forum on Electricity Pricing on the issue of overseas experiences with electricity price deregulation.	4,000

2007-08	Gallaugher and Associates Pty Ltd	Written paper and presentation at the CUAC Expert Forum on Electricity Pricing on the issue of network pricing options from a network business' perspective.	5,000
2007-08	St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria	Written paper and presentation at the CUAC Expert Forum on Electricity Pricing on the issue of pricing principles.	3,000
2007-08	Robert Wiles	Written paper and presentation at the CUAC Expert Forum on Electricity Pricing on the issue of retail pricing options from an electricity retail business' perspective.	5,000
2007-08	Alternative Technology Association	Written paper and presentation at the CUAC Expert Forum on Electricity Pricing on the issue of the role of the demand side in addressing energy market challenges.	2,400
2007-08	Frain Consulting	Launch of Newly Arrived Migrants manual.	1,855
Grand Total			\$199,557

FY	Grant Recipient	Project Focus	\$ (GST-exclusive)
2006-2007	Alternative Technology Association of Australia	Case studies of various community based energy and water initiatives across Victoria.	14,340
2006-2007	Frain Consulting	Working Together: a training template for community organisations based on the SCAAB experience.	12,000
2006-2007	People First - Total Solutions	Catalogue of consumer protections detailing the link between each protection, its rationale and the demonstrable market and consumer outcomes derived from the protection.	17,290
2007-2008	RMCG Consulting	Analysis of Regional Water businesses' draft water plans as part of the ESC Water Price Review 2008-009 - 2012-2013.	20,000
2008-2009	CUAC	Community sector engagement forum to update agencies on emerging utilities issues/campaigns.	\$1,078
2008-2009	Kate Allsopp	Review of LPG concessions and development of brief for DHS.	5,366
2008-2009	Consumer Action Law Centre	Periodic review of energy contractual terms and conditions.	8,000
2008-2009	Financial and Consumer Rights Council	Still an Unfair Deal? Reassessing the impacts of energy reform and deregulation on low income and vulnerable consumers	40,000

2009-2010	Financial and Consumer Rights Council	Still an Unfair Deal? Reassessing the impacts of energy reform and deregulation on low income and vulnerable consumers.	45,000
2009-2010	VCOSS	A snapshot of electricity and gas services and their impact on households seeking emergency relief.	9,617
Grand Total			\$172,691

EXECUTIVE OFFICER GRANTS			
FY	Grant Recipient	Project Focus	\$ (GST-exclusive)
2002/03	Energy Action Group	Response to the ESC Interval Metering paper	7,272
2002/03	Consumer Law Centre Victoria	Submission to the ESC review of electricity and gas retail codes.	7,272
2002/03	Energy Action Group	Prepayment meters campaign	6,882
2002/03	Energy Action Group / Energy Users Association Australia	Submission to ESC Review of Significant Producers' Provisions of Gas Industry Act	7,272
2003-04	Consumer Law Centre Victoria	Further submission to the ESC Review of the Electricity and Gas Retail Codes	1,500
2003-04	Energy Action Group/Energy Users Association Australia	Research on Consumer Impact of VENCORP Gas Pricing and Balance Review	7,272
2003-04	Jindara Community Services	Submission to the ESC review of electricity and gas retail codes, focusing on problems in relation to high energy bills	6,955
2003-04	St Vincent de Paul Society	Research and submission to ESC Review of the Effectiveness of Full Retail Competition.	6,920
2003-04	Tenants Union of Victoria	Research and submission to the Review of the Effectiveness of Full Retail Competition to represent interests of tenants	7,000
2003-04	Victorian Council of Social Service	Response to the Green Paper on water, considering the implications of the State's water strategy for low-income consumers	7,272
2003-04	Victorian Council of Social Service	Response to the ESC Review of the Effectiveness of Full Retail Competition to represent interests of low-income consumers	7,272
2004-05	Alternative Technology Association	Response to ESC Water Pricing Draft Determination	6,000

2004-05	Financial & Consumer Rights Council	Coordination of FCRC input to the Government Inquiry on energy affordability	7,272
2004-05	People First – Total Solutions	Coordinating a response from the emergency relief network to the Government Inquiry on energy affordability	5,745
2005-06	Alternative Technology Association	Response to ESC Review of Rural Water Authorities	7,265
2005-06	Consumer Law Centre Victoria	Response to ESC E2E customer transfer consultation paper	6,750
2005-06	Denis Nelthorpe Consulting	Expansion of Rural and Regional Network and development of agenda for second Rural Energy Consumers Forum	7,000
2005-06	Institute for Sustainable Futures	Identify the issues for small customers \$7250 (exc. GST), to identify the issues for small consumers in interval meter technology trials and pricing research.	7,250
2005-06	Moreland Energy Foundation	Seminar on “Best Practice Sustainability Regulation: the UK approach”, Melbourne Friday 5 May 2006	7,272
2006-07	Consumer Law Centre Victoria	Early termination fees compliance Review draft submission - submission	4,900
2006-07	Headberry Partners	Response to Department of Primary Industries discussion paper on cost of capital financing for advanced metering infrastructure.	7,272
2006-07	Tenants Union of Victoria	Research into the impact of exempt networks on residential tenants, for input to the ESC Review of licensing of small scale networks	4,025
2006-07	Footscray Community Legal Centre and Financial Counselling Services	Submission and survey relating to the Australian Energy Market Commission's Review of the effectiveness of retail competition	2,000
2007-2008	Consumer Action Law Centre	To provide co-funding with the Advocacy Panel into collecting case-studies of energy marketing behaviour to input to AEMC Review of the effectiveness of competition	2,000
2007-08	Eastern Access Community Health	Research into the impact of gas extension on fuel poverty in the Upper Yarra	5,500
2007-2008	Gippsland Resource Group Inc	Undertake a critique of the Water Plan of Gippsland Water as part of the ESC Water Price Review 2008-2012.	4,982
2007-08	Victoria University of Technology	Critique the AEMC's analysis of competition, focusing particularly on the customer survey.	3,750

2007-08	La Trobe University (Wodonga Campus)	To improve understanding of people's preferences for different mechanisms that result in compliance with urban water restrictions.	8,000
2008-2009	St Vincent de Paul Society	Lessons from Energy Australia's pricing trials and issues for Victorian consumers	2,095
2008-2009	MS Society	Survey of households with MS to benchmark energy consumption and costs for households in different states relative to different concession supports in place.	7,000
2008-2009	Just Change	Pilot project involving retrofit of ten low income private rental households	1,000
2009-10	Gippsland Resource Group	The Efficient Use of Recycled Water and the application of this information to the Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy	8,000
2009-10	Community Housing Federation of Victoria	Sustainable community housing innovations project	8,000
2009-10	Footscray Community Legal Centre and Financial Counselling Services	EWOV African engagement project	5,000
Grand total			\$172,695