

10 February 2006

Dr J Tamblyn  
Chairman  
Australian Energy Market Commission  
PO Box H166  
Australia Square NSW 1215



Email: [submissions@aemc.gov.au](mailto:submissions@aemc.gov.au)

Dear Dr Tamblyn

## **National Electricity Amendment (Advocacy Panel) Rule 2006**

Ergon Energy Pty Ltd (Ergon Energy) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment to the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) on the proposed Rule Change submitted by the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE). This submission is made by Ergon Energy in its capacity as an electricity retailer in the National Electricity Market (NEM).

Ergon Energy acknowledges that the Rule proposal reflects the MCE's decision that consumer advocacy should be administered by a long term body established by legislation, accountable to the MCE and AEMC and focussed on small to medium energy consumers. This approach is supported by Ergon Energy along with changes to eliminate the existing sunset clause which will ensure the continued funding of the Advocacy Panel after 30 June 2006. Ergon Energy supports the role of the Advocacy Panel, in particular its role in facilitating the participation of end-users in market discussion and reform.

It is noted there are three market consultations to be conducted following the completion of this Rule Change process:

- guidelines and terms and conditions for the appointment of members of the Advocacy Panel pursuant to Clause 8.10.2(e),
- funding criteria for use by the Advocacy Panel in allocating funding based on applications for funding for end-user advocacy pursuant to Clause 8.10.3(d), and
- guidelines for applications to the Advocacy Panel for funding for end-user advocacy pursuant to Clause 8.10.3(e).

Ergon Energy looks forward to contributing to the development of these guidelines and funding criteria.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our comments with you at your convenience. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me on (07) 3228 7536.

Yours sincerely

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Manager Regulation Policy

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