

## Introduction

### Objective

The Participation Grant Program funds projects up to \$20,000 that target system change on a small scale, either through engagement in regulatory or policy decision processes or through small, targeted research projects that investigate a system barrier in the energy system.

Please read the **Participation Guidelines** for more details.

Information on previous Grants can be found by accessing the [Grants Archive](#) on Energy Consumers Australia's website.

### Program Streams

Grants typically support activities or initiatives that demonstrate the following characteristics, grouped into two distinct streams:

#### **Stream 1: Regulatory Engagement**

Grants under this stream support initiatives that:

- Engage directly in regulatory processes where consumer perspectives can influence decisions (e.g., network revenue determinations, rule changes, pricing reviews, or market reforms).
- Strengthen the capacity of the consumer advocacy sector to represent energy consumers in regulatory or policy forums.
- Generate and share evidence about consumer needs, impacts, and experiences to inform regulatory decisions.
- Ensure the voices of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers are meaningfully included in regulatory and policy processes.

#### **Stream 2: Small research projects**

Grants under this stream support projects that are:

- Small in scale - with targeted objectives, a modest budget, and a clear achievable scope.
- Research-focused - producing new evidence, data, or insights that strengthen advocacy.
- Consumer-centred - addressing issues that matter to energy consumers, particularly those experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage.
- Impact-oriented - designed with a clear pathway to influence advocacy, regulatory processes, or system change.

## Eligibility

\* indicates a required field

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## Form Preview

To be eligible you must be either:

- A [not-for-profit organisation](#) within Australia, with a purpose or a mandate that permits you to carry out advocacy for household and small business energy consumers. This can include a [social enterprise](#) that is registered as a not-for-profit within Australia; or
- A bona fide research organisation with a public purpose.

Further requirements for all grantees:

- An Australian Business Number (ABN)
- A legal entity with the capacity to enter into a legally binding funding agreement

Ineligible applicants include councils, government agencies, unincorporated associations, and overseas organisations.

### **Please confirm your organisation type \***

- Not-for-profit organisations, with a purpose or mandate that permits them to be an advocate for residential and small business energy consumers
- Bona fide research organisations with a public purpose

## Applicant Details

\* indicates a required field

### Organisation Details

#### **Organisation Name \***

Organisation Name

#### **Organisation Address**

Address

  

#### **Primary purpose and mission of the organisation \***

Word count:

Must be no more than 50 words.

#### **Please attach the most recent Annual Report or audited financial statement \***

Attach a file:

#### **Organisation ABN \***

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The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity name	
ABN status	
Entity type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	<a href="#">More information</a>
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main business location	

Must be an ABN.

### Are you registered for GST? \*

- Yes  
 No

Note G

## Project Contact

This is the person who will carry out the project.

### Project Manager Name \*

Title      First Name      Last Name

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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### Position \*

### Business Hours Contact Number \*

Must be an Australian phone number.

### Email \*

Must be an email address.

### Attached a CV for the Project Manager

Attach a file:

### Project Overview

\* indicates a required field

#### Project title \*

Must be no more than 30 words.

#### Project description \*

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please provide a short but descriptive outline of the Project (this will be published on our Grants Archive).

#### Total amount requested \*

This number/amount is calculated.

This is automatically calculated from your response on the Budget page (page 10).

#### Total project cost \*

This number/amount is calculated.

This is automatically calculated from your response on the Budget page (page 10).

#### Co-contribution to project by applicant

This number/amount is calculated.

#### Proposed start date \*

Must be a date.

#### Proposed completion date \*

Must be a date.

#### Which stream of Participation Grant are you applying for?

- Stream 1: Regulatory engagement
- Stream 2: Small research project

#### Alignment with ECA's Strategic Plan Targets

Australian households and businesses want affordable, clean and easily accessible energy. Our 3-year Plan include 7 targets that we believe Australia's energy transition must achieve to realise its promise. Please look at [these targets](#) and the listed objectives under each one to see which one best aligns with the project's purpose.

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### ECA Target Area

- Equity
- Value
- Agency
- Ownership
- Control
- Justice
- Representation

### How does this project align with the target chosen? \*

Word count:

Must be no more than 150 words.

## Benefits to Consumers

\* indicates a required field

### Where are affected consumers? \*

- Urban
- Rural
- Remote

### Is this a national or jurisdictional problem? \*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Electricity Market  | <input type="checkbox"/> South Australia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Capital Territory | <input type="checkbox"/> Tasmania        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New South Wales              | <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Queensland                   |  |

Select a maximum of two categories.

### Which consumers are likely to see greatest improvement?

- Small business
- Household
- Low-income
- Disadvantaged

## Problem and Opportunity

\* indicates a required field

### Stream 1 - Regulatory Engagement

### Which regulatory process, and which decision makers will your project target? \*

Word count:

Must be no more than 150 words.

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## Form Preview

e.g. AER revenue determination, AEMC rule change, jurisdictional pricing review, market reform consultation.

**Why is this process significant for residential and/or small business energy consumers? \***

Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

### Stream 2 - Small Research Projects

**What is the specific issue facing consumers in the energy system that this project will address, and why is it a priority for residential and small business consumers? \***

Word count:  
Must be no more than 200 words.

## Project Delivery

\* indicates a required field

### Stream 1 - Regulatory Engagement

**What activities will you undertake as part of the regulatory engagement? \***

Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

**How are you centring consumer interests in your work? \***

Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

### Stream 2 - Small Research Projects

**How will you undertake the project, and how will it deliver benefit to residential or small business consumers? \***

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Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

**How will you ensure the findings are translated into actionable insights for advocacy, policy, or regulatory change? \***

Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

## Knowledge to Impact

\* indicates a required field

### Stream 1 - Regulatory Engagement

**What outcome do you expect as a result of the project? \***

Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

**Other decision-makers or stakeholders will you target with this work.**

Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

**How will your project help ensure regulatory and/or policy decisions are in the long-term interests of consumers (affordability, reliability, fairness)? \***

Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

### Stream 2 - Small Research Projects

**What outcome do you expect as a result of the project? \***

Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

**How will the project inform or influence system change? \***

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## Form Preview

### Word count:

Must be no more than 150 words.

e.g., policy reform, regulatory processes, institutional practices, consumer outcomes

## Budget

It is important that you outline the **total** cost of your project, including your organisations in-kind contributions and/or where you expect to receive funding from other sources.

This will allow ECA to assess that the project offers value for money - that the project benefits outweigh the costs, and that costs are prudent and minimised.

The budget should align exactly with your project plan.

## Personnel Costs

Please provide details of **total** personnel costs for the project - staff and external consultants.

Where some of those might be partly funded by ECA, you will need to split the amounts between the two columns for the funding source. List key personnel and use a different row for each staff member

On-costs should be **no more than 15%** of the project cost.

*Click 'Add More' to add additional rows below.*

<b>Expenditure type</b>	<b>Staff position title or consultant name</b>	<b>Funded by ECA (Ex GST)</b>	<b>Funded by Applicant/Other (Ex GST)</b>
		Do not insert a \$. Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.

### Personnel costs funded by ECA

This number/amount is calculated.

### Personnel costs funded by Applicant or other contributor

This number/amount is calculated.

### Personnel costs for project

This number/amount is calculated.

## Travel Costs

Please provide details of **total** travel costs for the project.

Where some of those might be partly funded by ECA, you will need to split the amounts between the two columns for the funding source. Please itemise airfares, accommodation and per diem.

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Click 'Add More' to add additional rows

Cost Type	Funded by ECA (Ex GST)	Funded by Applicant/Other (Ex GST)
	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.

Travel costs funded by ECA	Travel costs funded by Applicant or other contributor	Travel costs for project
This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.

### Operational

Please itemise the costs associated with undertaking the project.

You can amend the expenditure descriptions as needed but please provide a detailed budget as that will form part of the assessment. Items could include:

- research costs - such as reimbursing focus group participants, or peer review
- publication costs - printing or website costs
- meeting costs - costs associated with the consultation or launch of your project report.

Expenditure	Funded by ECA (Ex GST)	Funded by Applicant/other (Ex GST)
	Must be a dollar amount.	Do not insert a \$. Must be a dollar amount.

Operational costs funded by ECA	Operational costs funded by Applicant/other	Operational costs for project
This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.

### Organisational

Organisational costs refers to the cost to your organisation to undertake this project.

Administrative overheads should be **no more than 15%** of the project cost. While we understand there are expenses incurred in order to deliver this project by your organisation, our funding agreement enables us to request project records for audit purposes if necessary.

Click 'Add More' to add additional rows

Expenditure	Funded by ECA (Ex GST)	Funded by Applicant/other (Ex GST)

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## Form Preview

	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.

### Organisational costs funded by ECA

This number/amount is calculated.

### Organisational costs funded by Applicant/other

This number/amount is calculated.

### Organisational costs for project

This number/amount is calculated.

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## Project costs calculations

### Project personnel costs (Ex GST)

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

### Project travel costs (Ex GST)

This number/amount is calculated.

### Project operational costs (Ex GST)

This number/amount is calculated.

### Project organisation costs (Ex GST)

This number/amount is calculated.

### Total project costs (Ex GST)

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

### Total amount requested from ECA (Ex GST)

This number/amount is calculated.

\$		\$	\$	\$	
This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.

## Other funding

### Is funding being sought from sources other than ECA?

In the table below list the source of funding (other than ECA), outlining the amount, if it is confirmed and whether it will be tied to particular costs.

### Who have you sourced other funding from?

### Total amount sought (Ex GST)

	Must be a dollar amount.
	\$

### Total of other sources of funding

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

## Proposed milestones and funding tranches

What are the key project stages at which funding should be released? Please outline the key milestones and deliverables, the date, and the requested tranche amount. Each scheduled tranche will require submission of an ECA progress report and tax invoice, in addition to the scheduled output/s.

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## Form Preview

Click 'Add More' to add additional rows

What are the key project stages at which funding should be released? Please outline the key activities and deliverables, the date, and the tranche amount.

Milestone stage/ deliverable	Tranche payment date	Tranche amount
Insert deliverable that will trigger a payment for each tranche.	Must be a date.	Must be a dollar amount.
Tranche 2		\$

**Tranche total**  
\$   
This number/amount is calculated.

**ECA funding amount request**  
\$   
This number/amount is calculated.  
This is automatically calculated from page 10 Budget

**Calculation check**  
  
This number/amount is calculated.  
This should be "0" where the Total Tranche \$ = ECA Funding request.

## Declaration and Privacy Statement

\* indicates a required field

- I certify that all details supplied in this application and in any attached documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that the application has been submitted with the full knowledge and agreement of the management of my organisation/group.
- I have read the accompanying guidelines for applicants provided with this application form.
- I agree that I will contact the Energy Consumers Australia immediately if any critical information provided in this application changes or is incorrect.
- Energy Consumer Australia respects all personal and confidential information received and will do everything possible to protect information from unauthorised access, loss or misuse. Information collected from you is required for the delivery of the services in accordance with the employees'/Directors' powers, functions and purposes. It may also be used by the Trustees/Directors and their representatives to conduct research and customer satisfaction surveys so that we may better understand community needs and can improve service delivery. Should you need to change or access your personal details, please contact [grants@energyconsumersaustralia.com.au](mailto:grants@energyconsumersaustralia.com.au) A copy of the Energy Consumers Australia Privacy Policy is [available on our website](#).
- I understand that the information above will be used in accordance with relevant legislation and declare that this information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Authorised By:

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**I am authorised to complete this application and have read and understood the declaration and privacy statement \***

Yes

**Date of declaration \***

Must be a date.

**Name \***

Title      First Name      Last Name

  

**Position \***

## Grants Administration Contact

This will be the person who is responsible for the management of the grant, ie they will administer the grant.

**Name \***

Title      First Name      Last Name

  

**Position \***

**Phone Number \***

Must be an Australian phone number.

**Email \***

Must be an email address.

**Will the Project Manager be different to the grant administration contact? \***

Yes

No

The Project Manager is responsible for carrying out the project.

## Applicant Feedback

You are nearing the end of the application process. Before you review your application and click the **SUBMIT** button please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

**Please indicate how you found the online application process.**

Very easy

Easy

Neutral

Difficult

Very Difficult

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## Form Preview

**How many minutes in total did it take you to complete this application?**

Must be a number.

Estimate in minutes i.e. 1 hour = 60

**Please provide us with your suggestions about any improvements and/or additions to the application process/form that you think we need to consider.**