**National Consumers Roundtable on Energy**

**Enabling Group Reporting Template**

**1. Project Name, Enabling Group Lead Name and Enabling Group Members Names**

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| DER |
| Mark Byrne |
| Luke Reade, Kellie Caught, Craig Memery, Douglas McCloskey, Dean Lombard, Rob Law, Gavin Dufty, Mark Henley |

**2. Project Goals**

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| The RT DER group (aka Le DERG) is an ongoing forum that will:   * Identify and discuss the opportunities and challenges facing consumers created by the DER transition, with a focus on inclusion and equity. * Seek solutions to the issues identified. * Build capacity of RT members and other consumer advocates to advocate on behalf of our constituents. |

**3. Project Outputs**

These may be key agreements of the Enabling Group, such as policy principles, policies, joint submissions or reports, or decisions made by governments or businesses which the Project influenced. Please provide references if available, or attach additional pages if required. If the output was a published document, please provide a copy.

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| **1. Manifesto** |
| Next page |
| **2. Past outputs** |
| PPT Presentations to the Hobart Roundtable by Mark Byrne, ARENA and U Tas attached. |
| **3. Workplan** |
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| **Note**  DER represents a complex and quickly evolving space. We used the first workshop in Hobart to:   * Identify what the groups goals and objectives should be * Identify opportunities and challenges DER presents * Identify a range of potential proactive and reactive issues and processes the Le DERG group could engage in   We are collectively of the view that there is value in identifying a number of small pieces of work that may be progressed in the short term, but also using them as opportunities to develop understanding of the longer term, overall work of the group. For example, in producing a piece which analyses and recommends best practice solar schemes for renters, we develop a better understanding of how we view the broader DER challenges, which will help develop broader prinicples.  We have developed a five month work plan, which we will review, evaluate and refine at our next workshop in June. At that June meeting we will also review and finalise the group objectives and manifesto. |

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| Date Provided to SACOSS | 19 March 2019 |

**Draft manifesto**

The transition to a high DER energy system now seems inevitable. A high DER can provide significant benefits to Australian energy consumers, but can also create significant challenges if the transition does not deliver equitable benefits to all consumers and the system as a whole.

Benefits of a high DER energy system inlcude:

1. Speeding up decarbonisation.
2. Optimising the efficiency of new infrastructure needs.
3. Improving consumer choice and control.
4. Reducing prices.
5. Optimising system resilience and reliability

Challenges of a poor transition to a high DER energy system, include:

1. Equity challenges :

* Ensuring that the benefits of DER maximized are provided to those who are unlikely to be able to invest in or access DER products and services, including renters, apartment dwellers and low income households.
* Cost of the transition is equitable and does not create greater hardship for low-income housholds

1. Technical challenges — e.g. in managing high reverse energy flows.
2. Regulatory challenges — e.g. in creating distribution system operators and trading platforms.

**Draft workplan**

| Issue | Action/notes | Lead |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Develop principles on how the transition to DR should be paid for | Draft lifted from principles in 2018 TEC paper | Mark B |
| Develop principles dealing with DER and splint incentives | Draft briefing paper elaborating on principles to support renters and low-income households | Luke and Mark H |
| Greater consumer input into the Open Energy Networks consultation | Liaison with ENA and AEMC to provide a forum and processes to seek greater consumer input into the development of the Open Networks plan | Kellie |
| Greater consumer engagement in the future DER-rich system design | Work with ARENA’s DEIP to identify joint project to improve consumer benefits in a future DER-rich system | Kellie |
| Capacity building – Webinar on TEC paper on equity implications of solar | Kellie to organise webinar for RT and ACOSS members (capacity building) | Kellie, Mark B |
| TBC: Network constraints on solar (Pending outcome of Renew ECA grant application) | Briefing note for RT on how networks are dealing with network constraints due to high solar penetration to build RT capacity | Dean /Rob |

**Note: All projects are due to report in progress or final form to the Brisbane Roundtable in June 2019**