
From: Andrew sada [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2020 8:40 AM
To: Adjudication
Subject: Please stop reauthorising CEC code

General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Dear sir /madam

Re: Authorization of CEC code of conduct / Approved solar retailer scheme

I realise that am sending this submission little too late as the closing date for receiving submissions was last month, however for the sake of healthy competition, justice and stopping monopoly I urge you to consider the following.

Is CEC an independent organisation ? As we all know CEC has extraordinary financial interests in the solar industry and number of powerful representatives have complex financial interest in the policies and direction of the solar industry.

I own a solar business and I have been trying to resist joining the ASR scheme simply because I cannot see any benefit to my customers or my business .On the other hand I can see by joining this scheme I will need to deal with personalities that own products promoted in the industry.

I personally have my well known opinion about one of the products promoted in the industry, and I also have my reservation and known opinion about the person that owns this product. However this person is currently a member of CEC code review panel so should I join this scheme and should I have to deal with this panel in future then I will need to deal with a person that is not independent and has obvious conflict of interest in the industry.

One of the conditions to join ASR scheme is not to have any relative involved in a failed business, This is unbelievable ! How can someone's application be judged by another person's business circumstances ? This is only one of many examples of this bizarre scheme.

Speaking to many installers that are part of the scheme, It is clear that CEC administrators have extraordinary power which can so easily be abused. It is also obvious to me that large portion of installers and retailers do not want to be part of CEC processes if they had the choice, and most of them would have send you their objection to reauthorise the CEC code however they are small business and they are scared of CEC retribution if they speak against it.

The code is not about protecting consumers, it is about controlling an industry, Vast majority of installers / retailers are hard working honest individuals not criminals as this code portrait them.

Our legal system has good mechanism to protect consumers.

CEC financial benefits and controls over the industry:

1. Fees for Issuing installers accreditation, all of them electricians running small business forced to deal with CEC & its bureaucracy if they want to work min solar industry.
2. Fees for approving products, Manufacturers have to deal with CEC if they want to do business solar industry.
3. Fees for joining ASR scheme, retailers must join this scheme if they want to continue working in solar industry and they must put up with the abuse of the code administrators to survive.

4. Fees from sponsors, most of manufactures and large players will fund CEC activities in order to stay in the good books.
5. Above is only what is public.

So CEC collect fees for approving products, promoting products, selling products and installing product ! isn't this too much power to be i the hand of 1 organisation.

The power that CEC is having over the renewable industry is scary and alarming, I urge you to look into this issue and do not let so much power be concentrated in 1 nonindependent body.

Regards
Andrew Sada