

Minutes



SA Power Networks' Renewables Reference Group

Meeting Details

Organiser	Rebecca Bedirian
Date	10 August 2018
Time	09:30 – 12:00pm
Location	The Precinct Conference Centre

Attendance

Heather Smith	Changing Weather
Jenny Paradiso	Suntrix
John Herbst	Solar Advocate
Matthew Curnow	Conservation Council's Energy Standing Committee
Mike Swanston	AER Consumer Challenge Panel member
Dean Lombard	Alternative Technology Association
Damian Edwards	CQ Partners
Simon McKay	Sol Energy
Martin Cottrell	The Energy Project
Wasim Saman	University of South Australia

SA Power Networks

David Stobbe (<i>Chair</i>)	Manager Customer Operations
Jess Vonthethoff	Manager Stakeholder Engagement
Rita McPhail	Manager Customer Engagement
Rebecca Bedirian	Customer Consultation Lead
Travis Kauschke	Future Networks Engineer
Brendon Hampton	Future Network Engineer
Andrew Haines	Network Manager – Strategic Projects
Tonya Stevens	Reset Engagement Lead
Fiona Hewlett	Minute Secretary

Apologies/Not Present

Ben Lovell	Living Energy Solutions
Darren Gladman	Clean Energy Council
Mark Byrne	Total Environment Centre
Peter Scott	Royal Development Australia Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula
Tina Maiese	Energy and Technical Regulation
Quentin Roberts	EfficientSee
Richard Sibly	Head of Regulation, SA Power Networks

Business Arising

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting of the SA Power Networks (SAPN) Renewables Reference Group (RRG) and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes and Actions

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 21 June 2018 were confirmed and accepted.

Actions from previous meetings were reviewed and updated as follows:

No.	Action Description	Responsibility	Update
18-20	Liaise with website redesign project to get visibility of retailer contact details on the website, to help improve communications around MC changes.	D Stobbe	D Stobbe reported that retailers have agreed to have a dedicated phone line for electricians, builders and contractors re metering issues.
18-30	SAPN to consider more effective options for 30 - <100 applications to avoid bottle necks at cut-off date. (Suggestion raised by Matthew Curnow)	Mark Pynn Rebecca Reed	A Haines confirmed that more SAPN resource have been engaged to get through the applications backlog.
18-31	SAPN to provide draft of new connections policy to Renewables reference group for review and feedback.	Rebecca Reed	21/6 Steve Jolly has advised that the policy will be ready in a few months, due to changes that need to be considered for Reset purposes. 10/8 Once New Connections Policy is complete, Steve Jolly to present to the RRG
18-40	Members to provide talking points for the Future of Solar workshop.	Rebecca Reed	
18-45	R Bedirian to have meeting with A Haines and B Hampton and look at ways to bring members into discussions for commissioning report improvements.	R Reed	Andrew Haines will seek more feedback from stakeholders in regards to commissioning reports. 10/8 – A Haines to determine attendees once agenda is finalised.
18-46	R Bedirian to have meeting with A Haines and B Hampton and look at ways to bring members into discussions for 30->100kW approval improvements.	R Reed	Andrew Haines will meet with Andrew Lim to talk through options for improvements. 10/8 – A Haines to determine attendees once agenda is finalised.



3. Around the Table

Matt Curnow:

Would like some clarity around the ESCOSA ruling on licensing. i.e. 100KW system you need to apply for a license but only if you are exporting to the grid. Also, that the paperwork to be completed is the same whatever size system. Licensing for 1MW and 2MW should be different. Members discussed that in their opinion if the system is under a certain MW that the documentation required should be less comprehensive. A Haines will approach ESCOSA and AEMO with this recommendation - make this a joint approach between SAPN and the Renewables Reference Group. Heather Smith, Heather, Matt Curnow, Andrew Haines all agreed to be involved in the approach.

M Curnow also discussed the representation on the Clean Energy Council (CEC). J Paradiso sits on the CEC and in her view the stakeholder representation is good and diverse. Members asked why the CEC is not involved in the licensing and metering issues? They discussed more representation from retailers on the CEC. Also that there needs to be better communication from the CEC.

Wasim Saman:

Let members know about an event at the Adelaide University – a Forum for Industry Friends of Low Carbon Living. An email with further details about the event would be sent to members.

Heather Smith:

Advised that she is undertaking a PHD - Microgrids for our Energy Future. She is travelling to the UK to talk to regulatory bodies about their energy process. The UK is 2-3 years ahead of Australia. H Smith will provide feedback at next RRG meeting. H Smith invited members to contribute to her research if they were inclined.

Andrew Haines:

Discussed an installation safety issue with solar installations between AS3000 and AS4777, where the installation rules are vague. Electricians have gone to switchboard to locate the isolator only to find switchboards that are still live. SAPN has contacted the OTR about this. SAPN is advising the switchboard manufacturers that this is unacceptable and is working with them for a solution. J Paradiso asked how can they check that the switchboards are compliant. A Haines advised that there will be an industry update released with services standards to clarify this.

Martin Cottrell:

Requested an update on SCADA. A Haines confirmed it had been signed off and will be required for any system up to 5MW. A Haines is looking into how the cost of the product can be reduced however stated that while it might be more cost to the solar project, it will produce a better outcome. Members discussed the limits and technical requirements.

Damien Edwards:

Discussed dynamic modelling for clients and that it would be helpful to have someone from SAPN advise what's required with the modelling. Also if there are economies of scale. A Haines explained that SAPN do not conduct those modelling studies, that we don't have the software or expertise. SAPN uses a consultant. Also that AEMO want us to go lower with the dynamic studies. Members discussed that the geographical location should be taken into account whether you need dynamic studies or not. D Edwards highlighted that the requirement for dynamic modelling is not set out in the rules where it says 'automatic exemption for under 5MW, apply for an exemption above 5MW'.



ACTION: A Haines/J Vonthethoff to arrange a separate technical meeting to discuss this, along with a deep dive presentation on static dynamic modelling for those who are interested.

4. Presentation: 2020 – 2025 Draft Plan (Jess Vonthethoff)

J Vonthethoff presented the 2020 – 2025 Draft Plan. Hard copies of the document would be posted to members. Discussion followed:

- H Smith asked when 2020- 2025 happens, in this rapidly changing environment, what's the give and take - will the public benefit if cost saving measures succeed? J Vonthethoff responded that the AER encourage efficiencies. SAPN would retain 30% and consumers 70% of any savings.
- J Herbst asked why OPEX jumped up in 2019 - 2020. T Kauschke explained that SAPN is incentivised to bring down OPEX. The 'jump' is simply a step change into the new reset period.
- J Herbst discussed how solar customers are forced onto new tariffs which means they could be worse off. B Hampton responded that new tariffs are designed to be more cost reflective and better for customers as a whole. Ultimately retailers will make this decision.
- D Lombard suggested there is an opt-out provision on a case by case.
- M Curnow suggested that there should be a timeframe for the transition, giving customers real live comparisons.
- W Saman asked when retailers announce their new tariffs and how much notice do they have to give. Need to allow customers time to weigh up their options.

ACTION: Members to have a follow-up conversation about advance notice for tariffs. Matt Curnow, Brendon Hampton and appropriate others.

ACTION: D Lombard agreed to share an ATA report on 'consumer impacts of cost-reflective tariffs' with members.

4. Presentation: Future Networks (Brendon Hampton)

B Hampton presented on Future Networks – *Managing the transition to the distributed energy future*. Discussion followed:

- W Saman asked how SAPN has allowed for new 'time of use' tariffs in the modelling. If we adopt the time of use tariff, does this resolve some of the issues? B Hampton responded that the model does demonstrate the effect of time of use tariffs, that it is one of the biggest challenges - it broadly improves the network, can lift some of the hosting capacity, but is not site specific.
- W Saman asked if we can estimate the likely costs and benefits through demand management. B Hampton explained that we would need to expand the network to host it which gives us solutions on different scenarios.
- J Herbst commented that the dynamic feed in price is missing from equation. Change feed in price, not just the buy price. B Hampton responded that SAPN's hands are tied on this, they've had the discussion and cannot change the way we charge.
- D Lombard asked if SAPN has considered time variant feed in tariffs? B Hampton responded that this is set by retailers and is not something we can influence.

ACTION: B Hampton to present modelling on effect of time of use model to RRG members, w/c 10 September.



New Action Items

Item Ref.	Action	Responsible Person/s	Status
18-51	A Haines/J Vonthethoff to arrange a separate technical meeting to discuss dynamic modelling, along with a deep dive presentation on static dynamic modelling for those who are interested.	A Haines J Vonthethoff	Open
18-52	Members to have a follow-up conversation about advance notice for tariffs. Matt Curnow, Brendon Hampton and appropriate others.	B Hampton	Open
18-53	D Lombard agreed to share an ATA report on 'consumer impacts of cost-reflective tariffs' with members. <i>(Report sent to members 13/8)</i>	D Lombard	Closed
18-54	B Hampton to present modelling on effect of time of use model to RRG members, w/c 10 September.	B Hampton J Vonthethoff	Open

