

# Minutes



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## SA Power Networks' Renewables Reference Group

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## Meeting Details

**Organiser** Fiona Hewlett

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**Date** 9 November 2018

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**Time** 09:30 – 12:00pm

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**Location** The Precinct Conference Centre

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## Attendance

<b>Ben Lovell</b>	Living Energy Solutions
<b>Darren Gladman</b>	Clean Energy Council
<b>Dean Lombard</b>	Alternative Technology Association
<b>Damian Edwards</b>	CQ Partners
<b>Heather Smith</b>	Changing Weather
<b>Jenny Paradiso</b>	Suntrix
<b>John Herbst</b>	Solar Advocate
<b>Martin Cottrell</b>	The Energy Project
<b>Matthew Curnow</b>	Conservation Council's Energy Standing Committee
<b>Peter Scott</b>	Royal Development Australia Whyalla & Eyre Peninsula
<b>Tina Maiese</b>	Energy and Technical Regulation
<b>Quentin Roberts</b>	EfficientSee
<b>Simon McKay</b>	Sol Energy
<b>Wasim Saman</b>	University of South Australia

<u>SA Power Networks</u>	(SAPN)
David Stobbe ( <i>Chair</i> )	Manager Customer Operations
Jess Vonhethoff	Manager Stakeholder Engagement
Richard Sibly	Head of Regulation, SA Power Networks
Caprice Davey	Network Manager, Major Customers
Alan Lee	Technical Standards
Alex Lewis	Vegetation Strategy Lead ( <i>Item 4 only</i> )
Kane Scott	Asset Strategy Engineer ( <i>Item 4 only</i> )
Brendon Hampton	Future Networks Engineer ( <i>Item 5 only</i> )
Fiona Hewlett	Minute Secretary

### Apologies

Mark Byrne	Total Environment Centre
Rita McPhail	Manager Customer Programs and Engagement (SAPN)
Sue-Ann Charlton	General Manager Customer Relations (SAPN)
Rebecca Reed	Customer Consultation Lead (SAPN)
Quentin Roberts	EfficientSee

## 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. The Chair introduced Caprice Davey, Network Manager Major Customers (SAPN).

### 2. Minutes and Actions

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 10 August 2018 were confirmed and accepted as correct.

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	Close
18-30 & 18-46	SAPN to consider more effective options for 30 - <100 applications to avoid bottle necks at cut-off date.	Mark Pynn R Reed	Merge with 18-46. Update at future meeting.
18-31	SAPN to provide draft of new connections policy to Renewables reference group for review and feedback.	R Reed	C Davey advised that the New Connections Policy draft will be finalised in the next few weeks.
18-40	Members to provide talking points for the Future of Solar workshop	R Reed	Open
18-45	R Reed to have meeting with A Haines and B Hampton and look at ways to bring members into discussions for commissioning report improvements.	R Reed	C Davey advised they are gathering draft expectations for a standardised commissioning checklist. This will be put on the SAPN website along with single line diagrams within the next 2 weeks. C Davey to provide a copy to RRG members. <i>CLOSE</i>
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.	J Vonthethoff C Davey	Further workshop requested to review the dynamic and static modelling process. SAPN was requested to compile a list of companies which provide acceptable dynamic modelling.
18-52	Members to have a follow-up conversation about advance-notice for tariffs. Matt Curnow, Brendon Hampton and appropriate others.	J Vonthethoff	J Vonthethoff to obtain update from James Bennett on data and timeframe on cost-reflective tariffs



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### 3. Around the Table

#### *Heather Smith:*

Provided feedback to the Group on the SAPN Draft Plan 2020-2025 process. As an RRG representative on the Customer Consultative Panel (CCP) Heather has been involved in the CCP feedback submission on the Draft Plan. H Smith invited RRG members to provide her with any feedback on the plan which she can take to the CCP for inclusion in further feedback. H Smith also mentioned a report from the U.S.A. on collectable solar, being able to present flexible solar to the market.

Members raised the issue of connection requirements, in particular for systems capable of exporting >200KW. In summary;

- Members want to get a feel for the range of different approaches by other network providers in managing exports, for a more consistent approach.
- The Simplified SCADA connection costs estimated are far higher than initially quoted, \$50-60K as opposed to \$10K previously indicated as a target cost by SAPN, and it is claimed that interstate distributors are completing for less. This has caused issues for solar providers who have quoted to customers based on the original indication from SAPN. It was suggested that SAPN should review the charging applied for those projects which have been mis-quoted due to the rule change effective 1 August, for a limited period, say 6 months, or until such time that the estimators have a better idea on costs. Another suggestion was that SAPN offset the connection cost against future earning potential, as there would be a value in a 200KW+ system going on the network.
- The option of using a third party to provide the SCADA connection service, getting lots of companies working in a competitive space to innovate and drive down the price was discussed. C Davey highlighted the issue of cyber-security that came with a third party connecting to the network.
- C Davey explained that the prices being quoted to customers have been provided by the estimators. As this is a new solution, actual costs are yet to be determined as there has been only one installation completed since the 1 August rule change (at the beginning of November). The required modelling is very sophisticated for systems of 200KW or more.
- Members were frustrated that the connection rule change was implemented, without first knowing the cost to the customer.
- Asked for clarification of whether it's contestable or non-contestable work. If it's contestable, this would mean it can be done in isolation, then a third party can do it. More discussion about cyber-security.
- Was there a more equitable way to share the costs?
- Would it be possible to push back the implementation of the new connection rules by 12 months – to 1 August 2019? C Davey responded that the technical standards changed for a good reason, because of the impact on upstream transformer capacity and the need for a viable solution.
- C Davey said that SAPN is working with the ENA on technical connection guidelines, to be used as a national standard for systems >30KW.

***ACTION: D Stobbe will investigate with the SAPN Network team to find an equitable solution to the issues raised around new connection rules and report back to members as a matter of urgency.***

#### *Jenny Paradiso:*

Discussed the State Government's residential battery program and its impact on the future network. J Paradiso highlighted the delays in getting approvals from SAPN for new and upgraded solar installations, even when there is no battery being installed. The scheduling processes have been changed by SAPN and J Paradiso asked for clarification on who to escalate to.



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***ACTION: J Paradiso to send information to C Davey re. issues with delays to scheduling. C Davey will follow up internally.***

J Paradiso has also received conflicting responses from SAPN which do not align with the government website. D Stobbe stated that the information on the government website was incorrect. T Maiese offered to assist in resolving this.

***ACTION: D Stobbe to identify the error on the government's website with Tina Maiese, who will escalate to correct.***

*Matthew Curnow:*

Another issue with the new connection guidelines is the specialised electrical engineering skills required to install a >200KW system. Below 200KW is an easy application and approval process, using CEC Electricians. Better communication from SAPN with those who are not electrical engineers is needed.

***ACTION: M Curnow to write up his experience as a lay person re the installation >200KW systems and provide to C Davey for consideration.***

*Wasim Saman:*

Invited members to a CRC for Low Carbon Living Forum on 19-20 November.

***ACTION: W Saman to forward the invitation (through SAPN) for distribution to members.***

Members congratulated Peter Scott and Heather Smith on being shortlisted for an award at the Premier's Climate Change Council ceremony recently.

#### **4. Presentation: Levels of Service (Alex Lewis and Kane Scott)**

Alex provided the background for the development of the Levels of Service for the CCP and Reference Groups, outlining the consolidated levels of service categories and discussed their intent. There were 34 levels of service identified in total, with the following 8 deemed to be most relevant for the RRG:

- Customer connections delivered to agreed date
- Minor connection quotes / Other connection quotes
- Response to quality of supply enquiries
- Quality of supply remedial works
- Number of PV related high voltage customer enquiries
- Voltage compliance
- Relative performance efficiency compared to other Australian network distributors
- Rate of average annual asset renewal

Members were asked to complete a survey ranking these Levels of Service from 1-3 by importance (1 being low, 3 being high). Measures would be reviewed every 2 years.

***ACTION: Levels of Service schedule to be sent to members (F Hewlett)***

#### **5. Presentation: Future Networks (Brendon Hampton)**

Brendon Hampton provided an overview of the future network activities at SAPN, in particular with regard to the reset proposal.

B Hampton identified the future network engagement groups and channels, working with SAPN to gain a different perspective from across the industry:

- DER Technical Reference Group
- DER Integration Reference Group (2020-25 regulatory proposal engagement)



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- Customer Consultative Panel
  - Renewables / Business / Arborist Reference Groups
  - Bilateral engagement
  - Expressions of interest (2020-25 regulatory proposal engagement)
  - Network business engagement
  - other

H Smith asked how we get information to flow out of these groups better. B Hampton confirmed he would attend future RRG meetings to share information across the groups. J Vonthethoff highlighted that D Gladman is also a member of the DER Reference Group.

Summarised the Draft Plan feedback and key themes relating to future networks:

- Respondents generally support enabling greater distributed / renewable energy on the grid, and do not want solar PV exports to be limited or inverters to trip due to overvoltage
- Respondents who commented were generally supportive of our proposed approach to LV network visibility and dynamic export limits
- 'Informed' respondents want to see the detail of the modelling – are we making realistic assumptions and using a rigorous approach?
- Most respondents are concerned with keeping prices down
  - IT spending and OPEX efficiency
  - Fairness – why should non-DER customers pay to integrate DER?
- SAPN needs to demonstrate it's considering a broad range of options, and in particular give more consideration to use of demand management and customer incentives
- **SAPN needs to clearly articulate the benefits of its proposed approach from the customer perspective, not the network perspective**

Discussed the SAPN distributor conference – with all 14 Australian DNSPs attending. A forum for all distribution businesses to share and learn. The goals of the conference:

- Understand DER challenges and opportunities in each distribution network,
- align thinking and
- work towards collaboration on solutions to common issues being faced

Provided an overview of the ENA/AEMO Open Energy Networks and future state of the market.

The SA government home battery scheme – SAPN working with the government to ensure that smart systems are put in which are capable of dynamic control.

Provided an update on proposed ARENA funded trial for dynamic constraint management of virtual power plants via standard interfaces (API).

Query was raised on technical compliance of customers side voltage optimisation devices. Concern is they may lower voltage for the customer premises and may prevent the power quality modes or trip settings of the inverter from operating, allowing continued service voltage rise and impact on adjacent customers.

***ACTION: B Hampton to work with internal stakeholders to provide advice on technical compliance of voltage optimisation devices. B Lovell and J Paradiso to send examples to B Hampton.***

## **6. Presentation: Regulatory Reset Proposal 2020-2025 Update (J Vonthethoff)**

J Vonthethoff provided a brief overview of the feedback received on the draft plan along with next steps. The meeting had run over time, therefore J Vonthethoff would send her presentation to members for them to review following the meeting.



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***ACTION: Presentation on Regulatory Reset Proposal 2020-2025 to be sent to members by email (J Vonthethoff).***

***Meeting concluded at 12.15pm. Next meeting to be held Jan/Feb 2019 (TBA)***

