

To: info@esb.org.au

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Consultation on the Energy Security Board Data Strategy

Solar Analytics welcome the opportunity to provide input to ESB on the above consultation paper.

Solar Analytics is an Australian company founded by solar industry veterans, scientists, developers and passionate photovoltaic (PV) experts. We design, develop and supply intelligent rooftop solar and energy management solutions for residential households and commercial businesses. With 35 staff and 40,000 customers across Australia, we are the leading independent provider of rooftop solar management in Australia. With the largest fleet of real time solar + energy consumption in Australia, we provide energy data to seven DNSPs, AEMO, ESB and other energy regulators.

Solar Analytics support the seven recommendations with the following considerations.

1. Research impact of current voltage levels – we support further studies on the impacts of voltage on consumer equipment, DER and losses. We recommend using large volume using real world data.
2. Sharing network data for research – we support reduce the barriers for sharing data.
3. Build analytic capability in LV data and modelling – we support development of LV data sets, tools and analytic capability across networks and making this available to industry participants.
4. LV reporting to provide transparency for DER investors and planners – we support requiring networks to publish estimated DER hosting capacity and related data.
5. Review of metering requirements and roll-out – we support consider DER visibility in the upcoming review of competitive metering by the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC). Specifically we recommend **adopting the industry support DER Best practice Guide** (see below)
6. Evolving the DER Register to wider needs – we support adding in these additional data points on network connection points and export constraints, noting that this needs to be automated through the DNSPs to make the grid connection process simple for solar retailers.
7. Electric vehicle (EV) data – we support full analysis of the costs and benefits of EVs

Overall we believe that the ESB may have a role in helping to define a shared understanding of what data and data combinations need to be protected in order to maintain privacy and security. This could cover market meter data, which should have the highest amount of regulation, but also third-party data, basically ensuring protection for those who don't read T&Cs (everyone) and helping facilitate data sharing by creating a common treatment of data.

ESB should look at commercial barriers to data procurement - basically addressing the problem that everyone wants the data but no-one has budget to pay for it. Obviously tied together with DER monitoring guide, but in the absence of explicitly making it mandatory, the subject of commercial arrangements should be addressed.

DER Visibility and Monitoring Best Practice Guide

As publicly reported by AEMO, AER and DNSPs, visibility of the DER is of critical and urgent importance. Over the past 12 months an industry led best practise guide for providing visibility and monitoring of DER has been developed. This guide has now been published and is supported by all of the key industry bodies – <https://www.dermonitoring.guide/>.

The key benefits of implementing this best practice guide are:

- Provides enhanced visibility to SAPN, AEMO and other industry bodies to ensure network security
- Harmonised data set available to energy market planners and regulators to manage the transition to a two way energy market
- Facilitates the effective transition to dynamic export and a two-way market
- Provides value to consumers through the provision of real time granular data and insights

Summary

In summary, Solar Analytics support the increased use and availability of real time, granular energy data to accelerate our transition to a lower cost, highly distributed and cleaner electricity grid.

Regards



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