

Talking Power Newsletter

This week we have started our regional engagement sessions and have about 5 weeks of open consultation left for the 2020-2025 Draft Plan. We welcome your ideas, thoughts, feedback and questions. Thanks for taking the time out of your busy day to contribute to shaping our final Regulatory Proposal submission to the Australian Energy Regulator.

Delivering better outcomes at a lower price



Our Draft Plan for managing the State's distribution network over 2020 – 2025 was released for consultation last week. In case you missed it, you can read it on the Talking Power website. You can also see our one-page overview or watch an animated summary video.

Over the coming weeks, we will provide more information about different sections of the Plan through our Talking Power newsletters. This week we talk about Chapter 5 of the Plan - how we propose to transition the network to a distributed energy future.

What do you think about our plans to enable the distributed energy transition?

It is easy to forget that as recently as ten years ago it was extremely unusual to see a solar panel on a roof in South Australia. In 2018, it's a very different picture! With one in four premises now with solar and a network that was originally designed for one-way flows of electricity, we have been thinking about how best to accommodate our customers' changing needs. This includes ensuring the network has the capacity to continue to support the uptake of solar, as well as new technologies like residential battery storage systems.

Moving from centralised to de-centralised generation has its opportunities, but also its challenges. Our network was not designed to transport energy in two directions, and each part of the network has a limited capacity to accommodate the connection of distributed energy resources like solar and batteries before technical issues arise. As solar penetration in a local area begins to exceed capacity limits, customers can experience over-voltage at times of high export, causing inverters to trip off. Eventually, reverse energy flows in the middle of the day can become high enough to exceed the rating of transformers or other assets, which can cause localised power outages. These challenges can be exacerbated by 'virtual power plants' (where many individual batteries are aggregated under central control), which can cause very large swings in energy flows within the local network.

We want to ensure customers can continue to connect resources like solar and battery systems to the network, and are proposing work programs in 2020-2025 that will give us greater visibility of the network to ensure we can better manage these two-way energy flows. Check out Chapter 5 of the Plan and let us know what you think about our approach!

Consultation open until 5pm Wednesday 19 September

Please take the time to read the Draft Plan and give us your feedback. You can submit your comments through our online form, or upload a pre-prepared document. We are publishing all submissions on the website and using your feedback to shape our final Regulatory Proposal due in to the Australian Energy Regulator in January 2019.

Talking with the community about our Draft Plan



We will continue to be out and about in the community – this week we've been to Port Lincoln; are at Rundle Mall Thursday and Friday; and you can find us at the Adelaide Hills' Woodside Markets on Saturday. Over the coming weeks you can join us in Mount Gambier, Renmark and Port Augusta too. Find all dates and times of our regional drop-in sessions. Please come say hi, ask some questions and provide any of your feedback on the Draft Plan.

We are also holding drop-in sessions at SA Power Networks' Keswick headquarters and the Network Innovation Centre at Richmond. Subject matter experts will be on hand to answer any of your questions about the Draft Plan so that you can make an informed submission during the open consultation period. See the details here.

Are you passionate about power?

New registrations with the Talking Power website win an iPad*! We want to hear from as many South Australians as possible, so please let your friends, family and colleagues know about us. We will continue to send weekly newsletters throughout the consultation period to keep you updated on the Draft Plan and your opportunities to get involved.
**to qualify you must be a new registration on Talking Power between 5 July and 19 September 2018. Prize will be drawn on 20 September and winner will be notified through their details provided on Talking Power. NB SA Power Networks employees and immediate family excluded.*

Kind regards,
The Stakeholder Engagement Team

If you have any concerns about this newsletter or want to provide additional feedback, please contact us on talkingpower@sapowernetworks.com.au and we will get back to you as soon as possible.