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ENA rejects Renew Economy “scare campaign” on cyber security

The Energy Networks Association (ENA) wishes to correct misleading reporting by Renew Economy in *“Network lobby’s new scare campaign against solar: cyber security”*.

Contrary to the report, the ENA’s comments to Fairfax media did not *“... link the possible security threats solely to the use of solar and storage”*.

As reported in the original article, the ENA identified the need for cyber security risk management across a diverse range of network operations, including large-scale transmission operations, distribution network management and the integration of distributed resources like solar, storage, electric vehicles and demand response.

Energy Networks Association CEO, John Bradley, rejected the Renew Economy article as misleading.

“Australian energy networks are enabling the energy transformation, connecting cleaner, smarter applications at world leading rates,” Mr Bradley said.

“Our commitment to managing cyber security is crucial to enabling millions of distributed resources like solar and storage – not standing in their way.

“Tomorrow’s grid will rely on advanced communications and the integration of a larger number of smaller, distributed energy resources and they will bring different cyber security risks.”

The ENA had previously highlighted the broad range of emerging issues and discussed a Ukraine cyber security incident on a distribution network unrelated to solar and storage.

Mr Bradley said network service providers are taking these new cyber security risks seriously to enable the full potential of distributed resources.

“It’s an international focus, with agencies like the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in the USA seeking to establish an end-to-end cyber security architecture for distribution systems with Distributed Energy Resources,” Mr Bradley said.

“In the longer term, we are likely to see more ‘transactive’ energy systems, which would rely on real-time, distributed balancing of large numbers of resources within an integrated grid to maintain secure, reliable and safe electricity.

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The Energy Networks Association is the peak national body representing Australia’s electricity transmission and distribution networks and gas distribution networks on economic, technical, environmental and safety regulation, and national energy policy issues. ENA members provide energy to virtually every household and business in Australia.