

## **PRICING ENERGY SERVICES**

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ENERGY CONFERENCE, 2014** 

27 AUGUST 2014

#### Where do we start from...?

- Current Retail Tariff Levels
  - Do not reflect economic cost of supply
  - Reflect WA's Wholesale and Retail market environment (\$180 per MWh)
  - Absolute subsidies from taxpayers to energy users (\$2.4 BN over 4 years)
  - Significant Cross-subsidies between regions (TEC) & customer classes
  - Network investment constrained by State balance sheet capacity, rather than customer value of reliability

Figure 2: Wholesale electricity cost comparison for 2013-14

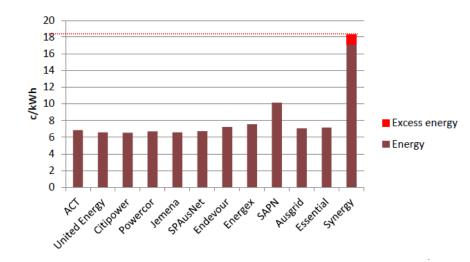
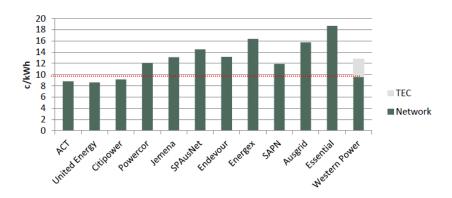


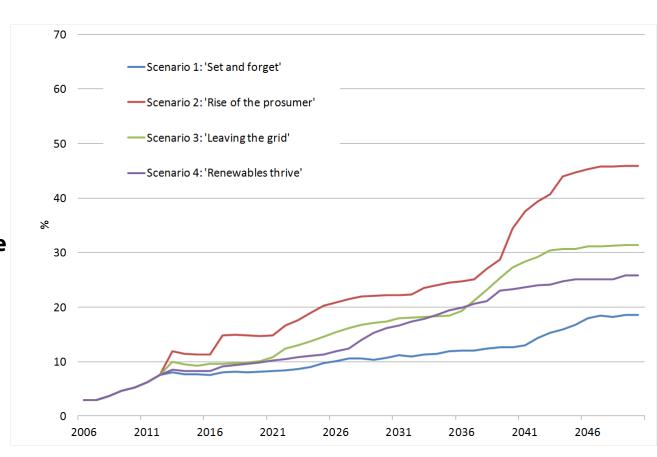
Figure 12: Network cost comparison 2013-14 (residential cost stack)



Source: Sapere analysis

# Potentially diverse futures for Network Use...

- Very different scenarios possible
- Opportunities as much as threats if agile.
- No 'Right' Answers but –Risk of Partial Substitute
- Exposure to highly volumetric tariffs
- Exposure to 'tipping points' through step changes in use and technology

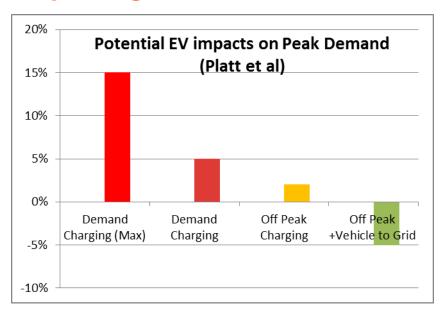


## **Need for Tariff Reform**

- Tariff Reform essential to
  - address current cross subsidies
  - incentivise efficient DER avoid encouraging duplication & higher costs to consumers
  - increase Resilience to the next step change

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# **Diverse Options with Diverse Consequences**

<b>Current Structures</b>	Energy	Demand	Other
- Increased Fixed charges	- Time of Use	- Anytime MD	\$/kW charge for net metering (APS)
- Declining Block tariffs	- Critical Peak Pricing	- Coincident MD	Fixed \$/month all customers (SDGE)
	- Peak Time Rebate		

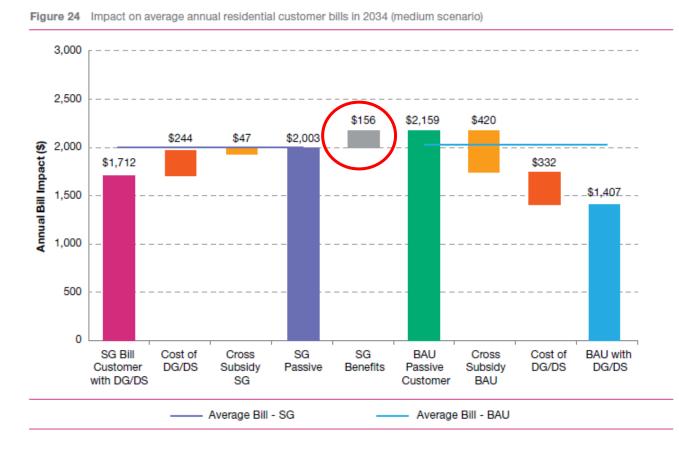
#### > Challenges

- Simplicity, User Friendly
- Avoid prescriptive, one size fits all solutions.
- Allow service providers to tailor for customers in consultation with customers.

## What's at stake.... the Long Term Interests of Consumers

#### > Efficiency

- Avoiding \$10 BN over investment in onsite generation and storage
- Saving \$156 p.a. on Average Bills.



## What's at stake.... the Long Term Interests of Consumers

#### > Fairness

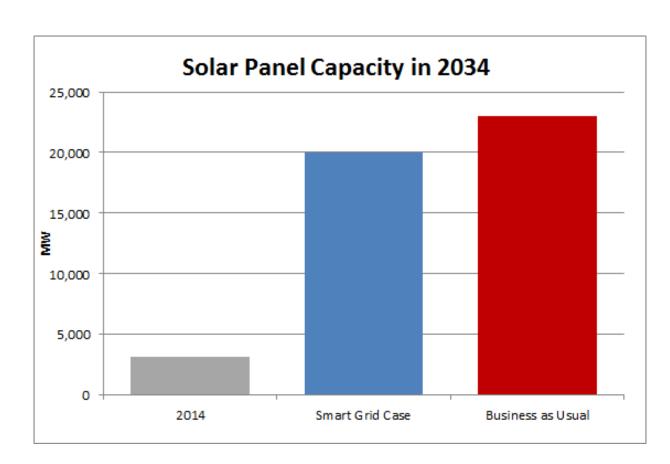
- Current A/C crosssubsidies of c. \$350 pa.
- Current Solar Cross
  Subsidies estimated
  \$60 \$241 p.a.\*
- Smart Grid Smart
  City report shows
  potential to increase
  to \$420 p.a.
- Avoiding economic stranding.



Smart Grid, Smart City - Shaping Australia's Energy Future (2014), p.71

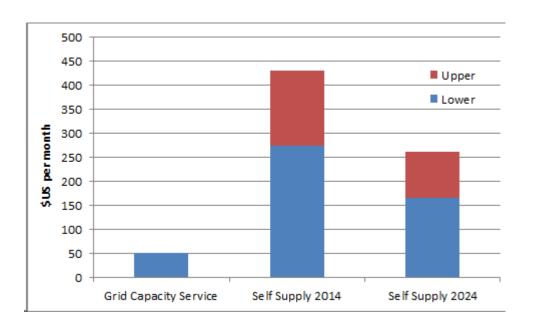
#### Tariff reform is not a death knell for DER...

- > Economic Signals
- Australia at worldleading levels of EG integration
- > Smart Grid, Smart City indicated difference was a 700% increase in Solar PV, not 800% increase.



## The Grid can compete on Value to Consumers...

- > Efficiency of Supply
- New Services
- > Access to New Markets
- > Hidden services:
  - Back-up Service
  - Regulation (Balancing) Service:
  - 'Start-up' service



#### **Priorities – Tariff Reform**

- > Tariff Reform must reflect today's reality
- > An integrated Road Map is needed:
  - 1. balanced approach to the regulation of advanced metering;
  - 2. a **consumer information** initiative;
  - 3. a national approach to flexible pricing based on **trigger events** and **consumption thresholds**;
  - 4. the refocussing customer hardship programs; and
  - 5. deregulation of retail prices
- > Avoid prescriptive, one size fits all solutions.
- > Allow service providers to tailor for customers in consultation with customers.