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BETTER VISIBILITY OF RENEWABLE GRID CONNECTIONS WELCOME

Energy Networks Australia has welcomed the decision to establish a register of rooftop solar and battery storage systems for the national electricity market.

Chief Executive Officer Andrew Dillon said new rules were vital to ensure network businesses could better service customers and manage the increasing amounts of distributed energy resources (DER) connecting to the grid.

“As household solar and storage continues to grow, especially with state-based government subsidies on offer, a register will provide networks and the market operator with far better visibility of distributed energy resources – that will be vital in managing a more distributed network,” he said.

“Effective optimisation of renewable energy into the grid requires knowledge of where these resources are and what type they are. Without this, we are flying blind and the extra load on the grid will cause extra costs and could cause blackouts.

“This register will help create the basis for the establishment of a multi-directional energy system that is more connected for the benefit of all customers.

“Keeping power prices down is a key priority for network businesses. Through appropriate optimisation of solar and battery storage, networks can make informed decisions about infrastructure investment and keep costs as low as possible.”

Energy Networks Australia is working with the Australian Energy Market Operator to align DER connection requirements with the DER register to ensure efficient connection and operation for customers.

Mr Dillon said the register would also need to be responsive to future changes in technology.

“Grid-connected electric vehicles are a potential battery or generation source for customers. Right now the register doesn’t take into account the integration of electric vehicles, but we look forward to making sure it can consider electric vehicles when the time is right.”

ENDS

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Energy Networks Australia represents Australia’s electricity transmission and distribution networks and gas distribution networks. Our members provide energy to virtually every household and business in Australia.