

AEMO REQUESTING SUBMISSIONS ON INAUGURAL INTEGRATED SYSTEM PLAN

June Community Power Inc.

80 Gundagai Road

June, 2663

peoplepower@juneecommunitypower.com

28th February 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your request for input.

June Community Power Inc. has been in existence for about six months. As a community we are being confronted by the issues of electricity and gas affordability.

June has the fifth highest rate of disconnections in NSW. An issue we only become fully aware of the severity at the Anti-poverty day run by the NSW Ombudsman Janine Young in Wagga Wagga in November 2017. References 1 and 2.

It is very clear that the current system is leaving some people, community organisation and business behind. The anti-poverty day showed us that there was not a coordinated approach to helping the most vulnerable, those lacking the skills or the financial resources to help themselves. This is particularly the case in rural Australia, the Riverina area where we are based.

With ample sunshine to solve the problem we just need help to guide and assist us in looking after all in our communities. Particularly, rural communities with less high paying career opportunities and its aging population that is highly dependent on the aged pension.

What support and guidance can be given to small volunteer organisations who lack the resources both in personal and funding to help them steer their communities through this energy disruption and take advantage of the opportunities it presents?

Audrey Zibelman AEMO, Alison Crooke ENOVA and Origin Energy (references 3,4,5) have all suggested micro networks as one model that has potential to assist. But how do we do this? We are volunteers with little experience in these types of negotiations and where and how do we start?

June Community Power Inc. is launching three projects that are aimed at the affordability issue through a pilot energy efficiency project, perpetual fund to assist community organizations and a solar PV group buying scheme. See attached brochure.

The quotes in italics are taken from your questions to be addressed in the AEMO ISP.

.

Energy efficiency, because the cheapest energy is that which is not used.

Project 1: Leak sealing homes, community website and behavioural change project.

The CSIRO conducted air leak tests on 150 homes in Adelaide and achieved a \$2 benefit for each \$1 spent on sealing the air leaks. On average they spent \$200 per home in sealing the air leaks for a \$400 saving per home in energy costs. ReNew article reference 6.

This community project is being led by Junee High School students who will try and replicate this cost benefits. The challenge they have been set is 'Can Junee High School students inspire the Junee community to be more energy efficient'. See the attachment for full details.

- ✓ Build on work done CSIRO in 2015 by Dr Michael Ambrose.
 - Using blower door technology
 - Infrared cameras to locate leaks
 - Sealing techniques
 - Save Power appliance testing procedures
 - Develop a data base for the details of each houses results to be collected

- ✓ Promote cost benefit analysis to the householder in their final report of future energy efficiencies. Which will include:
 - Behavioural change
 - Up-grade electrical appliance eg refrigerators, TV, etc. to more energy efficient ones
 - Up-grade lighting to LED's
 - Insulation (roof, walls, floor)
 - Curtains, pelmets, glassing options, etc
 - Solar PV installation
 - Eligibility to discounts for concession card holders on certain up-grades eg refrigerators and TV's.

It is hoped we can develop this pilot project so that it can be used by any High School to inspire their community to be more energy efficient. We also hope that a national data base will be able to be developed so that all agencies can better target those in greatest need from its stored information.

It may also focus the need for greater regulation on energy efficiency for new homes, renovations and for rental properties. Let's see what the students tell us in their report on Junee 21st 2018.

What is the best way to achieve the policy objectives of affordable, reliable, secure power and meeting emissions targets?

Without **affordability, reliability, secure power and meeting emission targets** are meaningless objectives.

Junee has the fifth highest rate of power disconnections in NSW as mentioned before. If you don't have the power connected or you must turn it off because you cannot afford it, the rest is irrelevant.

Project 1: above obviously tries to assist with this in a more holistic approach.

Project 2: The Perpetual fund

This is a donation model if the community has the financial strength to support it. The Perpetual Fund aims to raise the capital to install a solar PV system or conduct an energy efficiency up-grade to a community not-for-profit organisation eg aged care facilities, museum, kindergarten, etc. The organisation repays the interest free loan back to the Perpetual Fund out of its energy savings. When the loan is repaid, they fully own the installation or up-grade. The repaid funds are then invested in another community asset.

Many of our community organisations are being bled dry by the cost of electricity and are having to raise funds just to pay the energy bills and stay open. Not a sustainable business model.

Project 3: Group buying scheme for solar PV installations

This is for those who are fortunate enough to be able to afford such an installation. We are trying to take the guess work out of the purchase and give a non-sales person advice on what is best to buy from our research. We have also modified a technical specification for the purchase and warranty of such installations to help reduce the risk of door to door salesman.

The next step: As we have indicated above, small rural communities often lack the resources to get the issues that are confronting them in relation to energy into some meaningful action plan with real, tangible outcomes. Please give us a hand.

Dennis Lambert

Chairperson, Junee Community Power Inc.

Mobile 0488284501

Reference:

1. Households in the dark -St Vincent de Paul Society
2. Australian Energy Regulator- Annual report on Compliance and Performance of the retail energy market.
3. Audrey Zibelman ANU energy update and solar Oration 2017 29th November
4. Alison Crooke, ABC RN Science Show 2nd Dec 2017
5. Origin Energy – SMH article in early 2018.
6. Renew magazine issue 141 Sept-Dec 2017 -Gaps in the building industry. P48-51