



# PV Industry Alert

May – Issue 19

## Clarification on switching IESs off

In recent PV Industry Alerts, we advised that IESs must now be left switched off after installation until inspected and metered. The compliance has been very high, so we thank installers for their cooperation and role in educating customers about this requirement.

We clarify to installers that when you've replaced an existing inverter with any other inverter, it is not necessary to leave the system switched off, provided the bi-directional meter is already installed and the original system installation has already been inspected by Ergon Energy.

However, you must still lodge a Form A as Ergon Energy representatives need to conduct another compliance inspection on the new inverter installation and, in some cases, do new meter readings. Please lodge Form As as soon as possible.

On new system installations, please ensure DC isolators are left on, but the AC isolator/s left off.

## Recording online applications

Ergon Energy is aware the inability to print the new online application form released on 21 April has caused some difficulties for applicants. We have evaluated a number of solutions and in the short term, the Solar Support Team can provide an electronic copy of an application on request by phone or email (see details at bottom). Please quote the AF application number. We are also developing a more automated solution and will advise the industry once this is available.

## RECESS and NECF

Ergon Energy's Residential Electrical Contractor Engagement SessionS (RECESS) are being rolled out again to 12 regional Queensland locations between 1 and 18 June. Installers especially are encouraged to attend and more details are available at: [www.ergon.com.au/network/contractors-and-industry/electrical-contractors/recess](http://www.ergon.com.au/network/contractors-and-industry/electrical-contractors/recess)

A component of those sessions will cover Micro Embedded Generating Units, the new umbrella term to be used by Ergon Energy and others for Inverter Energy Systems, to reflect the terminology of the National Electricity Rules.

Ergon Energy is introducing changes to application and assessment processes, largely as part of the introduction of the National Energy Customer Framework from 1 July, so PV industry members will need to fully understand them to:

- provide accurate advice to customers,
- maximise the benefits to your business, and
- be compliant with Ergon Energy's and other's requirements.

Those changes will be detailed in future PV Industry Alerts and RELAY newsletters, and on the 'Contractors & industry' page on Ergon Energy's website.

## More applications being assessed

Ergon Energy has begun assessing more applications below the typical assessment thresholds in an attempt to identify more systems unlikely to operate effectively due to the existing volume of IES capacity on the local network.

This is good for the network, and ultimately good for customers and for the PV industry in reducing call-backs and unhappy customers for you. As always, Ergon Energy reserves the right to assess any application and, just because an inverter is below the threshold, you should not assume approval is guaranteed.

## Reminder: Include existing capacity in applications

Managing applications for upgrades, whether for arrays only or for whole systems, can be problematic for Ergon Energy if the application is not clear about the desired total capacity.

We urge those completing application forms to take particular care to ensure they are applying for the new total capacity, of either the array and/or inverters, so we can ensure we deliver the most accurate assessment outcomes (where relevant) and maintain accurate records.