



# PV Industry Alert

August 2015 – Issue 22

## Offers will lapse

Where a Network Upgrade is not required, both the new Model Standing Offer and the Negotiated Connection Establishment Contract for Basic Micro EG Connection Services include a clause which says applicants have 65 business days from the date the offer is made to install the unit and lodge a Form A confirming installation of the unit.

At Ergon, we recognise that sometimes issues make that deadline difficult to meet, so at our discretion, and in special circumstances, we may allow an extension of up to 65 business days. You can send extension requests - along with the reasons and reference number - to our Solar Support Team at [energysystems@ergon.com.au](mailto:energysystems@ergon.com.au) before the original deadline expires.

## Network upgrade option

If you have received our 'options' letter in response to your application lodged after 1 July, you may have noticed that for most, one of the options is to have Ergon Energy upgrade the relevant section of the local network. The parameters under which Ergon Energy will prepare and price an offer to upgrade our network are provided by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and are explained in our [Connection Policy](#). Depending on the circumstances of the application the applicant may be required to fund all, or part, of the network upgrade – see page 12 of the Connection Policy for more details.

Please advise the Solar Support Team if you would like to take up this option. A Customer Connection Officer will then contact you to confirm the relevant charges associated with preparing a Negotiated Connection Contract. The costs will vary and will be quoted to the applicant before they have to commit to paying them. The charges to prepare a Contract are separate to any possible contribution required to upgrade the network. These charges are set out in Ergon Energy's Connection Policy and are further detailed in the Ergon Energy Price List for Alternative Control Services 2015-16.

## Metering fees and replacement meters

We've [recently communicated](#) that Upfront Meter Charges would apply to metering requested on Form As lodged from 1 August 2015. In addition, annual Metering Services Charges took effect from 1 July 2015, with the annual charges for solar PV units delayed until later in 2015. All those metering charges are payable by the customer, not the electrical contractor. For Ergon Energy Retail customers, more information is available on [Ergon Energy Queensland's](#) web page.

## 2015 review of Connection Standard up to 30kVA

In 2014, Ergon Energy and Energex consulted with industry and peak bodies to successfully develop the *Connection Standard for Small Scale Parallel Inverter Energy Systems up to 30kVA*. We are now seeking further feedback on the Standard to inform an updated version before its planned release in January 2016. We encourage you to submit your ideas and suggestions via email to [ies.tech.enquiries@ergon.com.au](mailto:ies.tech.enquiries@ergon.com.au) between now and midnight on Sunday 20 September 2015.

Ergon Energy's Donald McPhail is presenting at the [Solar Energy Industry Association's](#) event in Townsville on Friday 14 August if you would like to hear more about this review.

Following consideration of all feedback, an updated draft Standard will be released for further industry consultation in November 2015.

### [Array upgrades and inverter replacement applications](#)

We still require applications to be lodged for array upgrades and inverter replacements. Applications for replacement inverters of the same or lower capacity of the original inverter which are now above the new assessment thresholds will not undergo assessment, provided it is indicated on the application form that it is for a replacement inverter. Such applications will not lead to new contracts so the existing agreements/contracts, and their terms and conditions, will remain in force. The applicant will receive a letter acknowledging the application and approving the installation.

### [See which area has the highest solar numbers on our network](#)

In response to requests from the industry, stakeholders and the community for information on solar PV (and other micro EG units) installation numbers and capacity, we've made this information available on our website. You can see which postcode has the highest number of solar PV or other micro embedded generating units by visiting our [new page](#) on the Ergon Website. The data will be updated monthly.