

PV INDUSTRY ALERT

This Ergon Energy alert is the first in a series to keep the solar PV industry up to date with issues that may impact on the connection of inverter energy systems (IESs).

Ergon Energy is experiencing a significant influx of applications for IES connections and has invested more resources to speed up approvals. We are keen to work closely with the industry to minimise negative impacts on the customer, the network and PV installers.

Submit IES connection applications soon

As you are aware, the Solar Credits Multiplier under the Federal Government's Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) will reduce from **1 July 2011**.

We are assessing all applications as quickly as possible, but cannot guarantee approval to allow connection before 1 July, particularly for larger systems requiring more complex assessments.

Ergon Energy aims to assess applications for systems with inverters of less than 5kW within two weeks of receiving the application.

We aim to assess systems with inverters of 5kW and greater, or 2kW and greater if being connected to a single wire earth return (SWER) section of the network, within four weeks. However, complex cases may take longer.

We provide the following guidelines to allow the best possible chance of approval by **Friday 24 June**. This allows a minimum of six days to connect the system so the customer can qualify for the Solar Credits multiplier of five.

- Applications for systems with inverters of 5kW and greater, or 2kW and greater if it is being connected to a SWER section of the network, should be submitted by **Friday 27 May**.

- Applications for systems with inverters of less than 5kW should be submitted by **Friday 10 June**.

Changes to the Solar Bonus Scheme

The Queensland Government recently announced important changes to the Solar Bonus Scheme.

From **5.00pm, 7 June 2011**, only network connection applications for solar PV systems with inverters of 5kW and less will be eligible for the Solar Bonus Scheme. Applications for connection of inverters greater than 5kW must be received by 5pm on this date in order to be eligible for the existing Scheme.

Additionally, there will be a limit of one Solar Bonus Scheme application per premises. (The Scheme has yet to confirm the definition of 'premises'.)

Other important information

- Voltage ranges in inverters are generally factory-set to AS4777 standards. However, Ergon Energy requires a narrower voltage range of 225V to 255V (240V +/-6%). Inverters must be set to this range in order to comply with the terms of the Ergon Energy IES Network Agreement.

If voltage fluctuations from a non-compliant inverter cause unacceptable distortions on our network, Ergon Energy may need to disconnect the IES until the issue is resolved by the customer.

- Installers submitting applications on behalf of customers must ensure the customer has signed the application form. Forms without the customer's signature will not be considered.
- Ergon Energy and ENERGEX IES application forms are not interchangeable. Please ensure you submit the correct form. Incorrect forms will not be considered and a new application will be required.

All solar PV systems require network approval

Solar PV systems must not be connected until the customer has received network approval. Doing so places the customer in breach of the *Electricity Regulation 2006* and could present risks to the network and to individual premises.

Ergon Energy undertakes technical assessment of systems with inverters of 5kW and greater and for systems with inverters of 2kW and greater if being connected to a SWER section of the network. Applications for smaller inverters are checked for completeness and accuracy but do not undergo technical assessment.

If you have any questions, please contact Ergon Energy's Customer Service Team on 13 10 46, 7.00am-6.30pm, Monday to Friday

Summary of key dates

Friday 27 May – Applications for systems with inverters of 5kW and greater, or 2kW and greater on single wire earth return sections of our network, should be submitted by this date to allow best chance of approval by 24 June.

Tuesday 7 June – Applications for systems with inverters greater than 5kW must be submitted by 5.00pm on this date to allow the customer to qualify for the Solar Bonus Scheme.

Friday 10 June – Applications for systems with inverters of less than 5kW should be submitted by this date to allow best chance of approval by 24 June.

Friday 1 July – The Solar Credits multiplier for the SRES will reduce.