



# PV Industry Alert

September 2015 – Issue 23

## A reminder that RPC is required from 30 September 2015

We've previously communicated that from and including 30 September 2015, all applications for inverters rated above 2kVA and proposed to be connected to Ergon Energy's main network (not a SWER or Isolated network) must define a Reactive Power Control (RPC) setting of 0.9 lagging or lower. Any application that doesn't define this will be rejected.

Any inverter approved with RPC but discovered to not have RPC set as approved could be disconnected as the customer will be in breach of their connection contract.

The 30 September date applies to applications, not installations. So, if an application with no RPC defined was or is lodged before 30 September 2015, and an approval provided (offer made) by Ergon Energy, it is not necessary to enable RPC. However, RPC is still recommended for premises on the main network.

We'd also like to remind you that any application from 30 September 2015 for replacement of an inverter rated above 2kVA and up to 30kVA, and for premises on Ergon Energy's main network, must define the RPC setting as well, even if it is a replacement under warranty.

Please note, if a replacement inverter on a photovoltaic (PV) unit earning the 44c Feed-in Tariff (FiT) has a higher inverter rating than the original system, eligibility for the 44c FiT will be lost.

## Installation approvals

We ask all installers to please check with the PV retailer and the customer that approval has been gained before you prepare to install. Similarly, could PV retailers please ensure they have approval before arranging installation. Ergon Energy will continue to monitor ongoing compliance and will take action if deemed necessary for illegally connected micro embedded generating (EG) units.

## Deeper industry engagement

On 23 September, Ergon Energy and Energex representatives participated in a PV Connections workshop convened by the Department of Energy and Water Supply in Brisbane. It was also attended by PV industry representatives as well as Australian Solar Council and Clean Energy Council representatives.

The electricity network businesses explained the background to the evolving technical requirements and the reasons for the relatively minor differences in their requirements.

The industry representatives described the challenges they were experiencing with both the technical requirements and the application and negotiation processes, particularly those imposed by the National Energy Customer Framework, implemented in Queensland from 1 July 2015.

Workshop outcomes were very useful and have further strengthened the open communications channel that the network businesses in particular have been working to develop.

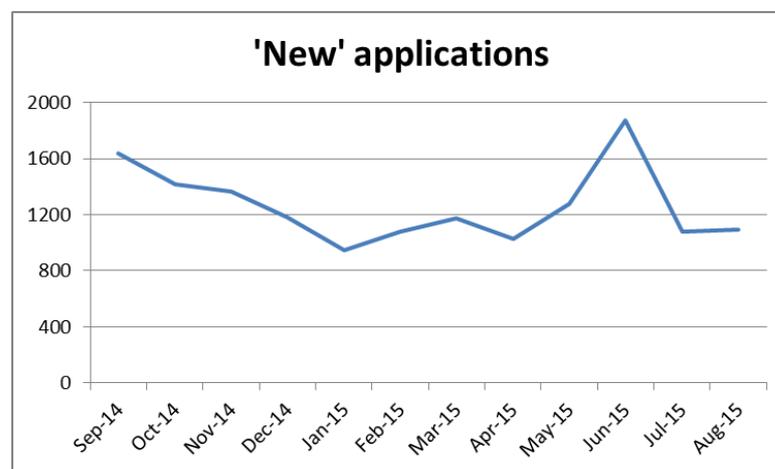
## Review of Connection Standard up to 30kVA

In mid-2014, Ergon Energy and Energex conducted a successful industry consultation process to inform the development of the Connection Standard for Small Scale Parallel Inverter Energy Systems (micro EG units) up to 30kVA (the Standard). The two electricity network businesses have been seeking feedback on the Standard to inform the updating of it for planned release in January 2016. The consultation period ended on Sunday 20 September 2015.

A draft updated Standard will be released for further industry consultation in November 2015.

### Application insights

- We have more than 110,000 systems installed on our network, and our current rate of applications is an average of around 1250 each month.



- In July and August, around 37% of all new applications required technical assessment. We expect this proportion to reduce as the rate of non-export applications increases. Of the applications assessed, 65% passed assessment and an offer was made. The other 35% of applicants received letters detailing their options. That means around 87% of all new applicants are receiving an offer for their desired capacity. The rest all have viable options, including non-exporting units.
- Our assessors are now keeping up with demand, following an expected backlog of assessments that built up in July and August due to the application influx in late June and the lowered threshold on our main network. All assessments are completed in around four weeks, plus application processing time, and we expect to reduce that timeframe.
- In August, the proportion of non-export applications jumped to 13%. It's pleasing to see this allowance resulting in more connections as few of these units would have been approved to connect as exporting units.
- While there are only a small number of applicants who are not using the online form, we encourage you to use the online application form whenever possible, especially as the hard copy/PDF form will be phased out in due course.

### Helpful links

Ergon Energy ['Battery storage'](#) web page

Ergon Energy ['Electric vehicles'](#) web page

Joint [Ergon Energy/Energex Connection Standard](#) for Small Scale Parallel Inverter Energy Systems up to 30kVA

Standard for [Connection of Embedded Generators](#) [>30kVA] in the Ergon Energy Distribution Network