NETWORK TASMAN DOMESTIC BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM POLICY – AUGUST 2024

BACKGROUND

Solar battery installations can provide support to network peaks and maximize off peak periods to charge batteries.

Network Tasman anticipates issues however where an outage, planned or unplanned, has occurred for greater than 30 minutes, and where once the network has been restored, the combination of reconnected hot water systems (HWC) and distributed battery energy storage system (BESS) installations overload parts of the network during the initial hours of reconnection.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

Network Tasman has low voltage reticulation and transformers that allow for bi-directional energy flow and can accommodate import and export from customer sites.

The objective of this policy is to ensure solar installers (EPCs) and retailers follow BESS installation policy which adds value to Network Tasman by providing higher levels of network security and reducing peaks but without compromising network outage events.

DOMESTIC BESS POLICY

The following requirements are required to be confirmed by all new solar BESS installations through the distributed generation (DG) approvals.

Typically, these requirements will be programmed into the battery inverter system. Alternatively, programming droplets may be used which may simplify the programming required.

Further, Network Tasman would accept existing BESS installations, where feasible possible, to be retrospectively programmed to meet the requirements. This could occur either directly, through solar EPC programme droplets or retailer VPP.

BESS Operating Requirements:

1. BESS charging during off peak periods only

Solar EPCs will programme all BESS systems to only charge from the grid during off peak times. Off Peak times are defined as:

All days 11pm to 7am

All days 11am to 5pm

2. 3 hour delay - after network outages greater than 30 minutes

No BESS system will be permitted to charge from Network Tasman's network within 3 hours of either a planned or unplanned outage, if the outage that occurred was greater than 30 minutes.

This allows for HWCs to be fully heated as a priority.

3. Max 3 kw charge rate - after network outages greater than 30 minutes

After the initial 3 hour delay of BESS charging, all BESS systems, regardless of size or capacity will be restricted to a recharge rate of 3 kW until the next off peak period.

4. Proof of technical compliance

As a condition of connection to its network, Network Tasman requires proof of compliance with this policy at the time of installation from solar EPC partners or the retailer VPP where applicable.

If compliance to this policy cannot be demonstrated then the BESS may still be operated under the condition that no battery charging from the grid is allowed.