

Duncan McBain – Public consultation submission

Exposure draft: Proposed Electricity System and Market Rules for Distributed Energy Resources

We currently have 13.2kW solar panels, a 3 phase 10kW inverter & 9.6kW battery in our solar setup. Currently we do not get paid for any power we export to the grid up to a maximum of 1.5kw regardless of when we export, peak or off-peak. The proposed changes seem to talk about protocols & seems to envisage an increase in the 1.5kW export limit under flexible exports, but does not mention whether the flexible exports would change to being paid (as in S Australia) or continue as unpaid. Obviously, there is very little incentive for us to increase our exports to the grid if we are going to continue to not get paid for these exports, particularly in peak periods.

Also, we would like to see the rules about self-consumption of our installed battery loosened to allow us to self-consume between 10am-3pm. This would be particularly useful for intermittently cloudy days when the solar panels have variable output. In almost all cases the power used during these relatively short events would have been replenished from the solar panels later in the same day. It is not that we wish to export from our existing battery as currently we are not paid for exports, & it is highly unlikely we would want to export during the 10am-3pm period even if we were paid based on the current feed in prices.

In the future we will be purchasing an EV and will be looking to V2G & V2H capability when we make that purchase. We would primarily be using the excess solar to recharge the solar battery as the car would be parked up for most of the day at home. For us peak and overnight self consumption, to supplement our house battery, are paramount, but if the arrangements under flexible exports were enough to incentivise us we could also look at modest levels of peak export from the EV battery.

We would potentially see flexible exports being far more beneficial to us as a consumer than a VPP, assuming we are getting paid for our exports and that the payment is sufficient to be an incentive.