Lyttelton Energy Transition Society
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WWW.LETS.ORG.NZ
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Submission - Lyttelton Energy Transition Society
Submitter - Co-Chair Wendy Everingham
Topic - Maximising benefits from local electricity generation

Lyttelton Energy Transition Society otherwise known as LETS is a recently created incorporated society based in Lyttelton. Community members from around our harbour have joined together to explore renewable energy options for our area. Our vision is to create: A zero-emissions, sustainable and resilient community with equitable access to energy.

Our goals are to:

- Promote, support and manage generation and use of electricity from local renewable sources.
- Improve the resilience of the community with distributed generation and storage.
- Ensure that the local community has ownership of and equitable access to electric energy
- Support advanced demand management of electricity use.
- Explore technical, commercial and cooperative opportunities for reducing Lyttelton's carbon footprint through local generation and use of energy.
- We aim to engage broadly with other similar organizations regionally and nationally to share lessons.

Q1. What are your views on the proposal to set a default 10kW export limit for Part 1A applications?

In our opinion this is a very positive move for the owners of home solar systems and the network in general and we support this proposal for several reasons:

a/ more home owners are installing systems between 5kW and 10Kw. Currently the extra power the system has the potential to generate is not able to go back into the grid automatically. To have an automatic approval of up to 10kW means the people who have larger systems will be able to export more. This in turn means they can earn more money from their systems and pay the capital cost back faster.

b/ there are often times when power is in short supply. This extra generation, if there was a critical mass of DG installations, could save valuable hydro resources for the times when the sun is not shining.

c/ extra solar localised generation could save EDB's from having to invest immediately in more in line infrastructure, sub stations and transformers.

d/ households could think more widely about the power they can generate to support their communities rather than just themselves. This in turn would enable their communities to be more resilient.

e/ the possibility of earning more from the grid might be the thing that incentivises a home owner to purchase a larger solar in the first place.

f/ we want our community to be more resilient. Some people may even be happy to support their larger systems with batteries. This would add an additional localised benefit from larger home systems. Currently in our town we do not have a community hub with power in an emergency. Just a series of homes with solar and batteries.

g/ local communities could have virtual power networks enabling a totally different way of sharing localised energy.

h/ more supply from DG has the potential to lower electricity prices for all New Zealanders

Q2 **Do you support inverters to use the Australian voltage response settings, as defaults, when the streamlined application process is used, which increases export levels?**

We support inverters that use the Australian voltage response settings.

a/ these inverters will enable even more power from installations up to 10kW to be sent to the grid however we also agree that in some situations distributors can set different settings if the infrastructure is unable to respond to the higher loads. We have just been made aware of a situation in Wellington where this was the case due to a transformer almost at capacity.

Q3 distributors to use an industry-developed methodology to set bespoke export limits for larger-scale distributed generation

We support the above proposal.

a/ we are particularly interested in community owned renewable energy systems. By enabling communities to install larger installations into the DG network will provide the opportunity for communities to earn more income from the system, share more power with others, be more resilient and expand local networks. The addition of batteries will also ensure that surplus energy generated can also be stored behind the metre and not impact the export limit requirements. If there are hard and fast rules about how much energy can be exported many opportunities will be missed. A bespoke arrangement seems like a sensible solution.

Q4 all distributed generation applications on low-voltage networks use the latest inverter performance standard.

We support the above proposal.