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Peak Demand Reduction Scheme Submission

9/11/2023

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the PDRS proposed changes, following the webinar last week.

Geni.Energy is a not-for-profit organisation based in Narrabri and charged with installing a community battery as part of the federal government's community battery scheme, round 1.

We also speak on a daily basis to residents and businesses that are grappling with issues in the energy sector so we have a good understanding of the on-ground practical implications of schemes such as this. From our understanding, the proposed changes to the scheme for residential batteries are very good. The provision of an annual incentive such as these credits has the potential to really turn around people's view of the financial viability of installing household batteries.

We look forward to helping people better understand these practical advantages and helping them to access them. The challenge we are finding is the availability of Accredited Certificate Providers (ACP) accredited by IPART. The list of ACPs that service the northwest region all appear to be based in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, preventing equitable access. It would be great for you to consider ways to extend the Scheme in a practical way to people living and working west of the Great Dividing Range.

Community batteries, such as the one planned in Narrabri can be configured to provide demand response services based on parameters. We are actively seeking new and different income streams for community batteries to improve their financial viability. Our Narrabri Community Battery Trial Project will install a 120kW/360kWh battery which does have the potential to help stabilise the grid locally and help reduce the peak demand, should the parameters be right.

Thanks for this opportunity for some quick feedback.

Regards

Sally Hunter, Managing Director