



TasReNews

Tasmanian Renewable Energy Alliance

October 2015

TASMANIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

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Support our campaign for a fair feed-in tariff

The last few years have seen feed-in tariffs (FITs) reduced all around Australia. In Tasmania the rate has dropped from 28c to 8c to 6.1c and now to 6.05c. This is one of the reasons the solar industry has contracted over the last two years in Tasmania.

As part of our FairGo4Solar campaign we are calling on the state government to set a fair feed-in tariff that recognises the many benefits to Tasmania of a growing solar industry including the savings for all consumers from generating electricity close to the point of use.

Feed-in tariffs are currently under review in Queensland and Victoria as well as Tasmania. The terms of reference for the Queensland and Victorian inquiries written by incoming Labor governments gives some hope that by taking a broader view of the benefits of locally generated electricity, there may be some increase in the FIT rates. We will be making a similar case to the Tasmanian Economic Regulator. Your support by signing our petition to Matthew Groom will show that Tasmanians want a fair go.

Sign our petition at <http://www.standupforsolar.org.au/tasfit>

We have also set up e-petitions you can sign on the Tasmanian Parliament website for both the [House of Assembly](#) and [Legislative Council](#). By signing these petitions your concerns will be tabled in Parliament and the government will be obliged to give a formal response.

Annual General Meeting

29 October

TREA has now been working for the solar industry in Tasmania for two years. Come to our AGM to hear what we have achieved to date and help decide what we will work on in the future. Elections will be held for the committee as well.

The AGM will be held at 6pm on Thursday 29 October 2015 in The Chapel, New Sydney Hotel, Bathurst Street, Hobart. Non-members and prospective members welcome.

To nominate someone for the committee and to read our Financial and Audit reports, please visit <http://tasrenew.org.au/aggm2015/>

Door prize thanks to SolarSpec. One lucky attendee will win a door prize pack from SolarSpec containing two DC Isolators, wide-brimmed hat and t-shirt, total value of \$150.



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About us

The Tasmanian Renewable Energy Alliance:

- Provides a united voice for the renewable energy industry in dealing with government and regulatory agencies.
- Provides services to members that assist them to conduct their business in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- Promotes the use of renewable energy in Tasmania.

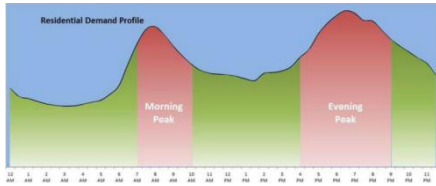
Gold sponsor



Proposed demand time of use tariff

TasNetworks is proposing the introduction of an opt-in 'demand time of use' tariff for residential customers starting from July 2017. The new tariff is likely to be of most benefit to customers who can manage the time of their energy use. This could be either manually (eg using appliances during the day, minimising use of heating at peak times) or using home automation systems that control usage of appliances, particularly heating and hot water, to minimise usage in peak times. It may also allow customers with on-grid battery systems to manage their energy costs by storing grid or solar PV energy and using it to reduce peak time consumption. You can read more about the proposed tariff at <http://tasrenew.org.au/newtariffoption/>

Contact TREA if you are interested in being involved in the implementation of this new tariff or in developing products that would make use of it.

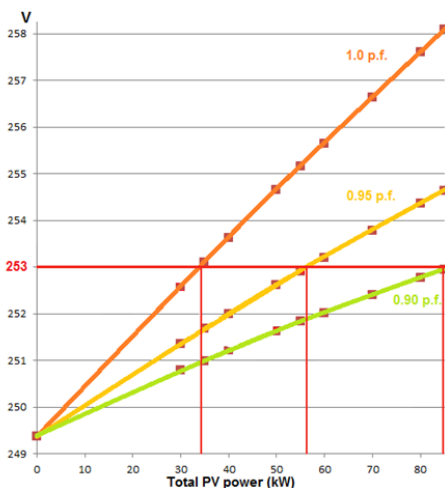


New TasNetworks connection requirements

TasNetworks is phasing in three new requirements in connecting solar PV to the network:

- All embedded generators, above 10 kW rating, that connect to the LV supply use a 3-phase connection, unless otherwise directed by TasNetworks.
- All embedded generators that connect to the LV supply must operate with a constant power factor set at 0.9 lagging (i.e. var absorption), unless otherwise directed by TasNetworks.
- All embedded generators that connect to the LV supply must have overvoltage protection settings that are consistent with AS 61000.3.100-2011 or amended AS4777 (section 7.5.2).

From 1 September 2015, these conditions may be required by TasNetworks for new connections where there is a risk of over-voltage and will be the default for all new connections from 1 January 2016.



At our recent training events, Mark Davies from TasNetworks presented results of modelling that showed that a power factor of 0.9 would allow considerably more PV to be connected to the distribution network without creating over-voltage problems. The modelling was based on an actual 200 kVA circuit in Devonport. The diagram above shows that for a given supply voltage, more than twice as much PV can be connected to the circuit for the same voltage rise by requiring a 0.9 power factor.

TREA will continue to argue for feeders to run closer to the 230V nominal voltage to avoid over-voltage situations, however the

new requirements will allow more PV to be connected given that low-load voltages in many parts of the Tasmanian network are often above the top of the TasNetworks' preferred performance range of 225-244V.

NEW CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Check with your inverter supplier that all inverters you install are able to meet the power factor and overvoltage requirements.
- Check that you understand how to set the required parameters if the inverter does not have the correct settings 'out of the box'.

Metering to offset two tariffs

Nearly two years ago the state government promised to fix the problem that prevents solar owners from using their solar generation to offset their consumption on both tariff 31 and 41/42.

TasNetworks have now received prototype software to fix this problem but it will be some time before it is fully tested and rolled out.

We need to keep up the pressure on this.

- Read the details of this problem on our [Solar metering](#) page.
- Sign our [petition to Matthew Groom](#) asking for prompt action on this problem.

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24 Hours of sun



Twenty four-seven sun will become a reality for home owners over the coming years as rapid commercialisation of lithium-ion based battery technologies is set to drive down upfront costs, which remain as the primary barrier to entry. 2015 has proved an exciting year in this segment as many manufacturers have announced storage systems, hinting at a future of distributed generation, and tapping into solar power system owner's desire to distance themselves from mains electricity or abandon the grid altogether.

SunEdison supplied inverter brands Fronius and SolarEdge are two such manufacturers to announce hybrid battery systems. Both exhibiting elegant and effective solutions that leverage years of expertise in R&D from the market leaders. Fronius and SolarEdge are the only two inverter manufacturers to have announced distribution partnerships with leading battery manufacturer Tesla.

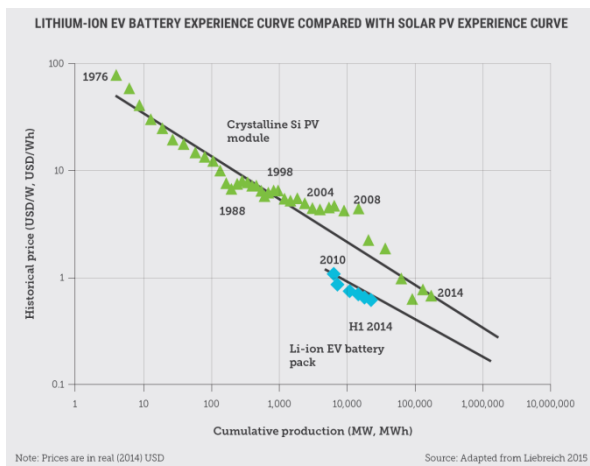
With brands such as Fronius, REC, SMA, Enphase, Trina, SunLock and SolarEdge, SunEdison's wholesale division has been supplying solar PV components for renewable energy systems throughout Australia and the Asia Pacific since 2007. Our security of supply, fast delivery and low prices have enabled many solar installers to grow their business in the ever evolving Aussie solar market.

Contact [SunEdison](#) on 1300 8585 484 to find out how you can leverage one of the largest renewable energy companies in the world to take advantage of hybrid power system components and grow your business in this exciting market.

New publications

Powerful Potential: Battery Storage for Renewable Energy and Electric Cars

The Climate Council's latest report finds that battery storage costs for households will continue to fall dramatically. 1.4 million Australian households already power their homes with solar. Household batteries will mean that households can store the power they create, giving them the flexibility to use it later on. The following graph from the report shows the reduction in lithium ion battery costs is following the same trend as the exponential decline in the cost of solar PV modules.

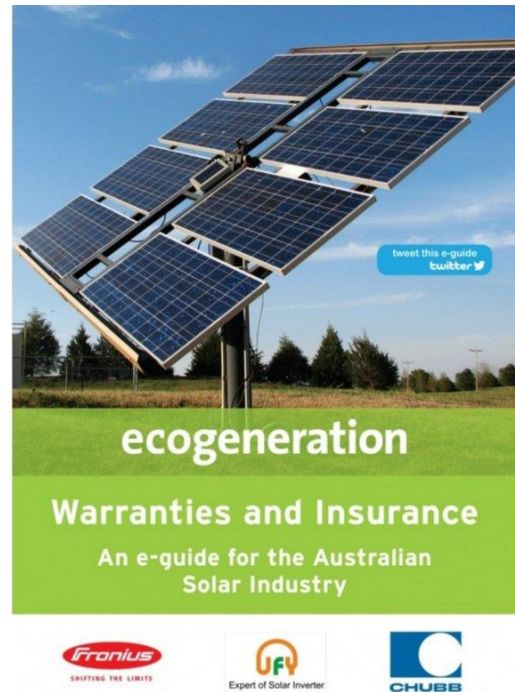


Download the report at <http://bit.ly/1jMvEPI>

EcoGeneration: A guide to warranties and insurance

EcoGeneration has just released the Warranties and Insurance E-Guide, a free, downloadable resource for the solar industry. This e-guide is for installers and retailers who want to reduce the risk for themselves and their customers.

This e-guide is able to be distributed as a free resource thanks to the support of sponsors Fronius Australia, Chubb Insurance Company of Australia and Shenzhen JingFuYuan (JFY).



It can be downloaded at

http://ecogeneration.com.au/shop/warranties_and_insurance_e-guide/99180

CablePI recall

TasNetworks has identified a manufacturing defect within a limited batch of these devices.

Both on the box the device came in and on the back of the device near the bottom is a sticker with a six digit number. This number is the date of manufacture in DDMMYY format. Any device ending in 13 eg. 110813 should be returned to TasNetworks.

Full details on the recall are available at

<http://www.tasnetworks.com.au/cablepi-recall-faqs>



Events

Thu 29 Oct

TREA AGM

6pm New Sydney Hotel, Bathurst Street Hobart

Sat 31 Oct

Sun 1 Nov

Sustainable living festival – full program at <http://www.slt.org.au/festival>

The Australian Electric Vehicle Association will have:

- A stall inside the Festival shed, co-hosted with University of Tasmania. AVEA members will be available to discuss electric vehicles and answer questions.
- A display of electric vehicles in the Festival including 2 x Tesla Model Ss, a number of production electric vehicles, a ZERO electric motorbike and electric bicycles. Owners will be available to answer questions.
- A raffle: 1st prize - trip to Mt Wellington for up to 4 people in a Tesla Model S (retail value \$200). Tickets \$2.

Wed 18 Nov

Charging electric vehicles in Tasmania

Thu 19 Nov

Launceston: 5:00-7:30pm, Wednesday 18 November, venue tbc**Hobart:** 5:00-7:30pm, Thursday 19 November, venue tbc

Clive Attwater from the Tasmanian branch of the Australian Electric Vehicle will present some of the opportunities and barriers to take up of electric transport in Tasmania. Part of his presentation will present a concept for an Electric Highway – a network of EV fast charging stations that would allow EVs to access all parts of the State. We are also hoping to have a presentation from a supplier of EV charging equipment. This will be a public event jointly hosted by TREA and AEVA Tas. Further details coming shortly. TREA members will be eligible for CPD points. Public entry by gold coin donation.

Thu 3 Dec

TREA end of year dinner

6pm venue to be advised

Join TREA

Your support for TREA will strengthen our voice with government. Our education and professional development program will keep you up to date with industry developments and issues that are specific to Tasmania.

We now have available a convenient direct debit arrangements that allows you to spread the cost of membership via monthly payments. For more details visit <http://tasrenew.org.au/about/join/>

Tasmanian Renewable Energy Alliance Inc. is a Tasmanian Incorporated Association, Incorporation number IA1142.

Contact us

For more information visit our website at www.tasrenew.org.au, email info@tasrenew.org.au or contact our Executive Officer Jack Gilding on (0407) 486-651.



Please support our Corporate and Founding Members



To find a TREA member in your area, visit our full [members list](#).