

PROJECT OUTLINE

The Future Proofing in Australia's Electricity Distribution Industry project (FPDI) is a collaborative project involving the Clean Energy Council (CEC), the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), the CEC's members and other key stakeholders. This project aims to enhance the flexibility and resilience of Australia's electricity distribution systems for the future.

Project objectives:

- Identify key barriers that challenge the sustainable integration of renewable energy, storage and demand management, and find resolutions to them
- Establish, coordinate and maintain relationships and transparent dialogue between key stakeholders to approach issues holistically
- Inform policy and regulatory reform aimed at alleviating barriers to integrating renewable energy, storage and demand management
- Demonstrate and understand the technical performance of existing and emerging technologies and the value they can add

STORAGE AND DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT

Addressing technical and information barriers to uptake

Demand-side management opportunities

Improving electricity use in businesses

Storage safety performance study

OUTCOMES

- Increased communication across industry stakeholders
- Performance and safety of storage technologies are understood
- Increased acceptance of storage technologies
- Opportunities for storage to add value
- Enabling efficient integration of renewables
- Platform for standards development

REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORKS

Assessment of regulatory challenges facing efficient deployment while reconsidering policies, incentives and business models

Grid integration research stocktake

Review of policies and incentives

Valuing small-scale generation to networks

Potential of mid-scale generation and storage

OUTCOMES

- Identification of challenges and opportunities for reform
- Analysis of incentive arrangements
- Analysis of key overseas markets
- Long term objectives for market reform frameworks
- Options to reconsider economic frameworks and network pricing
- Opportunities for network support from generation and storage

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICE

Understand the interface and technical solutions to address technical challenges for deployment and deliver more efficient outcomes

Technology testing survey

Priorities for standardisation

Grid-connection standards scoping study

OUTCOMES

- Development of standards and best practice
- Consideration of existing technical standards in Australia and overseas
- Analysis of the technical performance of new technologies
- Understanding of technology capability
- Testing and certification requirements
- Platform for standards development

INFORMATION SHARING

Sharing ideas, solutions, challenges and perspectives across the industry stakeholders

2013 Industry Workshops

Grid-connection experiences surveys

Ongoing dissemination and events

OUTCOMES

- Increased communication across industry stakeholders
- Shared appreciation of issues and solutions
- Unified expression of issues and solutions
- Ability to measure impact of reforms
- Dissemination of key findings and sharing of lessons learnt
- Overcoming knowledge barriers
- Alignment with key projects