



NEV POWER PTY LTD

ACN 611577103

31 January 2019

Owen Pascoe  
AEMC

Ref **EPR0068**

NEV Power is a wholly owned subsidiary of Narara Ecovillage Cooperative Ltd, established to provide electricity network and retail services to the newly formed village, eventually to comprise about 150 dwellings.

In 2017, NEV Power was awarded an ARENA grant to support the establishment of self sufficient PV, centralised battery and Smartgrid network.

This work is progressing but faces significant regulatory barriers:

- NEV Power is starting from a very small customer base but is obligated to join a costly Ombudsman scheme even though our customers are our owners and members of the Coop
- NEV Power faces significant network costs (eg HV operator call out), central battery and Smartgrid capex, opex and equipment trialling but can't pass on any network costs to our customers
- The interface arrangements with the NEM through another retailer are complex and unattractive when our goal is to be a net energy exporter
- The current regulatory framework requires our site to allow retail competition to our small customer base of members. To have even one customer sign with another retailer means the appointment of a retail manager which is beyond the resources of NEV Power.

The NEM is a complex set of rules, acronyms and regulatory bodies which make it hard for communities like ours to be innovative and advance distributed renewable generation and cost effective electricity supply on our private network.

For NEV Power, continuing the current treatment of networks as a regulated monopoly and retail as a competitive market will only hinder the development of local Smart electricity networks that combine local renewable generation and storage, demand side management and a high level of customer engagement.

NEV Power could benefit from sandbox regulatory relief to demonstrate what is possible in a small but progressive community.

Please contact me via email or D Parris on 0402 060 768 if you require further information.

Yours Faithfully

Lincoln De Kalb

Head of NEV Power

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