



The CONSORT Project

Progress report for Milestone 5: Intended for a general audience

General update

The past six months have been a busy period for the CONSORT project as it has covered periods of high energy use - public holiday long weekends over winter when there have traditionally been surges in energy use. The network aware coordination (NAC) technology has been tested and refined by the project team during these peaks which have given us important learnings about how to make the NAC run smoothly. Other project highlights include winning three prestigious industry awards: the Energy Project of the Year, (The Electrical Energy Society of Australia), Business community engagement award, (Clean Energy Council) and the Tasmanian Engineering Excellence Award, (Engineers Australia).

Network Aware Coordination (NAC) update

Between April and July 2018, the NAC was tested on the Bruny Island network. A number of important holidays occur during that period of time, providing the team with opportunities to test the operation of the NAC. The Easter weekend marked the first full-scale deployment of the NAC under real peak conditions. The trial ran smoothly, with no NAC outages or glitches recorded. Over Easter, the NAC saved roughly 30% on diesel costs. A key learning from the Easter trial was around the importance of more accurate forecasting. A new forecasting method was developed and has since led to faster reaction of the batteries, as well as stronger discharges during the peaks (tested on the Queen's birthday long weekend). With technical improvements made as a result of learning from testing in April and June, NAC testing in the July school holidays demonstrated the success of technical improvements made on the NAC. The project team continues to develop incremental improvements to the forecasting and NAC algorithms - work that will continue over the coming months.

Pricing update

Over winter, the project team tested the two different pricing options to better understand what consumers might prefer in relation to being paid for network support. In roughly half the period the customers were notified using an **energy reserve network support payment**, estimated



before the peak events from forecasts. In the other half of the winter period, they were exposed to the **energy use payments**, calculated after the peak events from actual data. The social science team conducted interviews following up on this period in August. This data is currently being analysed by the social science team at the University of Tasmania. Early analysis of the different payment types reveal that the loads did not change as a result of the different payment types. The project team believes this means the customers did not discriminate between the two payment types in any significant way. This has a positive implication for the technical element of the project as it means that we can select the payment type that fits best from a NAC perspective (likely to be the **energy use payments**).