

**Meeting Details: Connections Customer Consultative Committee**

**Meeting Purpose: Quarter 2 review**

**Location Held: MS Teams**

**Date/Time Held: 13/08/21 11:00**

**Present: Stephen Waters, SMEC; John Forbes, Dennis Corp; Anthony Grodzki, ALDE; Sam Nettelbeck, Plan B; Tony Ilijoski, ALDE; Alex Harvey, Property Council of Australia; Nathan Hollow, Stephen Watters SMEC;**

Powercor: Roy Kinston (Chair), Stephen Dimech, Craig Guymer, Matt Thomas

United Energy: Felicity Galluzzo, Derek Kwong

Secretariat: Sean Sammon

**Apologies:** Caroline Speech, Angela Gaedke, UDIA; Dino Strano, Winslows; Matthew Varcoe, Stockland; JP Camilleri; Jan Needham

**Copies Sent to:**

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**Key Discussion Points**

**No. Item**

**1 Actions**

Emma Tyner (Powercor) provide an update on the take up solar and electric vehicle requirements on the grid

- **Solar:** Approximately 5% of CitiPower residential customers have solar, in Powercor 22% of residential customers have solar. Western Suburbs and new developments top the connections. In June we 5500 applications to connect to the grid. Across the CPPC network the first 6 months have had 13,200 solar connections. This is a direct impact of the solar homes program.
- **Electric Vehicles** – think there is about 1,500 EVs on the network. With the Victorian Government subsidy program we expect this number to grow.

**1 CitiPower and Powercor Q1 Update**

Matt Thomas (Powercor) reviewed Powercor Q1 report document.

- **Masterplan review:** The average is down and we are still working towards our target
- **Design review:** The review process is slightly up, but we are aware and monitoring it
- **As-built plan review:** on track
- **Audit:** on track
- **Issue certificate of practical completion:** on track

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- **Time take to tie in:** on track

*Industry Feedback*

Sam Nettelbeck (Plan B) raised a question on tie-in timelines and flexibility regarding the stage in the development where the tie-in occurs. He wanted to understand if it were possible, on occasion, for the tie to occur earlier? This was reiterated by Anthony Grodzki (ALDE) who made the point about the expectations of the Department of Transport and what the developer have control over regarding roads and traffic lights. Roy Kingston took an action to explore this further and to make the conversation two ways so if an opportunity arises, ensure Powercor understands so can discuss bringing the tie-in forward as a real option.

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**2** Opportunities to further streamline processes

*Communicate process for requesting a final at 'as-built' submission.*

No changes

*Publish 'allowable variations tolerances' document to guide scope decisions.*

Matt Thomas (Powercor) said this is an ongoing process and as it becomes business as usual Powercor will seek further feedback from industry. Sam (Plan B) said the process was good and there was no negative feedback, only positive. He was keen to see the new parts that Powercor was working on and from their end things seemed to be running smoothly.

*Allow design review submission for multiple adjoining stages of a development concurrently.*

Matt (Powercor) said that once Powercor has understood they problem, they went about solving it. Anthony (ALDE) made the comment that some of the timeframes had increased over the past few weeks. Craig Guymer (Powercor) said he was away of this and while Powercor was still within timeframes the small delays were due to resourcing and it was being worked on. An action was taken to update the group on design turnarounds ahead of the Q3 meeting.

*Earlier release of plans for certification (within 28 days)*

Matt (Powercor) said it was working and Sam (Plan B) said no news is good news.

*Exploration of a creation of a more interactive system for completing audit, resulting in a faster turnaround time, and exploring methods to minimise the disruption to developments to rectify non-compliant audit findings without compromising quality and safety standards.*

Roy (Powercor) said that they would try to answer any questions but if would arrange for Jean Paul (Powercor) to respond. Anthony (ALDE) commended Powercor for implementing the system and John Forbes (Dennis Corp) asked for information on how it was being rolled out. Stephen Dimech (Powercor) said the program would be rolled out on October 1 and Powercor will apply an audit rating to all auditors. The program was still conceptual and as Powercor get closer to October they will have a better idea of how it works. Powercor will organise a session to provide further information. John (Dennis Corp) asked when companies will be advised of their ratings and Steve (Powercor) said companies would be advised in early October as part of a rollout transition program.

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**3** United Energy Q1 Update

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Felicity Galluzzo advised 100% of Q2 targets were achieved and made the point that only three greenfield projects had occurred in the United Energy area.

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4 Industry Feedback

John (Dennis Corp) said the pipeline in the growth areas where we have projects, Geelong, and in the Western and Northern growth corridors was still strong, with widespread demand. While HomeBuilder was good for the industry, there are concerns in the sector about building margins being squeezed and the impact that will have on builders.

Stephen Watters (SMEC) asked about the gas substitution discussions happening at the government level and what this would mean for greenfield sites, including a possible increase in the number of kiosks. Emma (Powercor) said Powercor would their submission to the Gas Substitution Roadmap. Stephen (SMEC) also raised a discussion he had with a developer where they felt as though power suppliers made it difficult for developers that were looking to include solar panels on all homes. Roy said that Powercor would organise a briefing with Planning. Stephen (SMEC) requested that this be a separate meeting and open to others.

ACTION: Add industry update to future agendas.

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5 Other Business

N/A

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4 Other items

Future Meeting Date:

Q3 meeting to be confirmed for November 12, 2021

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No. Action Item

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| 1 | Review the option of bringing forward the tie-in when required                         |
| 2 | Update on the design turnaround times  |
| 3 | Share a copy of Powercor's submission to the Gas Substitution Roadmap Discussion Paper |
| 4 | Organise a briefing with Powercor Planners on solar and developments.                  |