submission to draft report

To whom it may concern:

I am writing today on behalf of myself and our local community energy group (Natimuk Community Energy). We are a group of enthusiastic volunteers trying to bring more clean energy to our town. I applaud the effort of this study to quantify and monetise the value of distributed energy.

My experience to date when discussing the value of community energy and local generation, particularly with those that are currently in the supply/distribution chain, is to deny any benefit and even claim that local generation adds expense and is a detriment to the grid. Your study has conclusively disproved this myth using a method of analysis that was supported by the very deniers of this value.

My understanding of your study is that it analysed the value of currently installed distributed energy. It seems the next step would be to use this data to try to propose an ideal system for increased DG to maximise the value (economic, social, environmental, etc) for all. While your study did show value on several levels, is it not possible that a disporportionately greater value could be achieved with greater penetration, particularly when combined with other technologies such as storage or load controls. I am not sure that that information was captured; therefore, this study may undervalue the potential of DG.

In addition to quantifying the value of distributed generation you also address the lack of compensatory mechanisms for this value. Ideally, this will be taken into consideration in future discussions around remuneration for grid services. I hope that an understanding of the value that you have demonstrated in your report will lead to a greater acceptance and investment in distributed energy and help to remove some of the barriers (financial and regulatory) that now face those trying to invest in DG.

Sincerely,
Enga Lokey

Enga Lokey
project coordinator: N-CORE!
Natimuk Community Energy
PO Box 197 Natimuk 3409