

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 849

asked on Wednesday, 12 August 2020

MR E SORENSEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) how many solar panel applications have been cancelled or determined as 'nil export' allowance for the end user and (b) which suburbs in Hervey Bay can no longer service solar panel 'exports' without major Ergon infrastructure work?

ANSWER:

Customers or licensed solar PV installers may decide to cancel a solar PV connection application at any time for different reasons. Ergon Energy Network responds to all solar PV connection applications and does not initiate "cancellations". It is a customer's choice to pursue any connection.

Customers and licensed solar PV installers do legitimately request nil export solar PV connection applications for many reasons. Each solar PV connection application is unique in terms of size, location and the capability of the local network to support export to the grid.

No customer is restricted on the size of the solar PV they install for their own purposes, and to reduce their reliance on the grid and reduce their energy costs.

Ergon Energy Network will advise customers if there is a potential for export limitations based on impacts to the network supplying existing customers in that location. Many customers pursue a solar connection regardless of its limitation as it still offsets their power consumption in their home and receives the benefits of producing solar, including using that energy to offset their bill. In addition, future network upgrades may increase export capability at the time.

This year in Hervey Bay, on average one customer a week has pursued an option to install a connection with nil export.

Hervey Bay has one of the highest solar PV installation penetration rates in Queensland and Australia. The potential for reduced or nil solar export typically relates to the network capability in the immediate vicinity, on a case by case basis. It is not a limitation on the broader network for Hervey Bay and its suburbs.