

29 April 2024

Australian Energy Regulator
E: SAPN2025@aer.gov.au

To Whom It Might Concern,

The District Council of Streaky Bay writes to you in support of the SA Power Networks Regulatory Proposal for 2025-2030.

The proposal provides a solid foundation for the continued provision of;

- **Maintaining network reliability and safety expenditure**
Through maintaining safety (including the risk of bushfires), and the level service reliability (i.e. the frequency and duration of power interruptions). Importantly, the proposal seeks to maintain reliability to each geographic region, providing greater equity in service. This is proposed to be achieved via two programs:
 1. Network asset replacement – refurbishing and replacing deteriorated network assets; and
 2. Network asset upgrades – a ‘maintain underlying reliability performance’ program to mitigate network outages caused by non-asset condition factors (i.e. weather, animals, other damage cause).

In a changing climate and living in a remote high risk bushfire area this is extremely important to our region to reduce our bushfire risk. In addition to this our community being located at the end of long distribution line leaves us susceptible to frequent outages due to inclement weather, storm events and unreliable assets. In the township of Streaky Bay every main street business owner has been forced due to the frequency of power outages to purchase and connect to generators (at their own costs). In particular many of these businesses and community members would not report their power outages as over the years we have become (unnecessarily) accustomed to these outages.

- **Customer Energy Resources (CER) integration expenditure**
The ‘CER Integration Program’ seeks to invest to ensure sufficient network hosting capacity to continue to allow customers to continue to export energy from their rooftop solar at a high level of uninterrupted service (specifically, our customers have told us that they support a service level of 95% of customers being uncurtailed for 95% of daylight hours).

The township of Streaky Bay has one of the highest levels of rooftop solar uptake and this initiative will further support those customers.

- **Improving supply restoration times in remote network areas**
The ‘Supply Restoration program seeks to upgrade network assets to address customers’ concerns regarding prolonged outages, particularly in regions such as District Council of Streaky Bay. These outages are primarily attributed to the increasing occurrence of network asset-related failures and damage from third parties.



It is of particular importance to our communities that our restoration times are reduced particularly during inclement weather events for the safety of our community. With 33%+ of our population aged 55 and over, it is important that heating and cooling is maintained for these people, as our remote community does not have the opportunity for designated refuse or alternative options during these periods.

It is important due to the high level of tourism and visitation we receive that our accommodation, retail and hospitality sectors receive limited outages due to the vitality of the support services they provide to these people.

- **Regional Reliability Improvement Program**

The 'Regional Reliability Improvement' Program responds to customers' concerns for improving reliability in our worst served regions. The absence of this program would mean the three regions (South East, Eyre Peninsula, Upper North), which includes District Council of Streaky Bay, will continue to experience reliability significantly worse than the other seven regions (excluding Adelaide CBD and metropolitan regions).

It is important that as a Council we continue to strive for regional equity.

- **Innovation fund**

Our proposal includes an innovation fund to pursue initiatives likely to return long term consumer benefits by leveraging the rapidly evolving future energy market, including enhancement of the network and community resilience to extreme weather events by exploring joint funding opportunities. This will open up opportunities to partner with community groups in areas that may be particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events. The District Council in particular would be keen to pursue options under this proposal.

If you would like any further information in regards to this response please do not hesitate to contact Council on

[REDACTED]
Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Travis Barber
Mayor
District Council of Streaky Bay

