

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 8.7

Output Number: Opening Statement

Date: 21/06/2023

From: Mr Joshua Burgoyne MLA

To: Hon Selena Uiibo MLA

Portfolio: Renewables and Energy

Agency: Industry, Tourism and Trade

Subject: Alice Springs Future Grid Project

QUESTION:

Can you please provide us with a breakdown of the \$12 million and what has been achieved as part of the Future Grid project for that investment?

ANSWER:

Alice Springs Future Grid project budget:

Funding Source	Amount (\$000')
Australian Government's Regional and Remote Communities Reliability Fund Microgrids program grant	\$3,197
Australian Renewable Energy Agency grant	\$2,172
Desert Knowledge Australia's Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy	\$2,998
Current forecast in-kind contributions from project participants	\$5,057
Total	\$13,424

Activities achieved to date include:

- Technical modelling of the Alice Spring Power System.
- Installation of SODAR (Sonic Detection and Ranging) wind monitoring devices for a period of 12 months to measure wind speed and direction.
- Installation of a 300 kilowatt / 350 kilowatt hour battery energy storage system at the Desert Knowledge Precinct to identify implementation and operational barriers for commercial uptake.
- Development, installation and operation of the Northern Territory's first residential Virtual Power Plant (VPP) trial named Solar Connect in Alice Springs.
- Training of local electricians on the installation of new technology hardware (undertaken as part of the VPP trial).

- The installation of solar and battery storage systems on a selection of low-income public households in Alice Springs provided power through pre-payment meters and aggregated into the VPP.
- Dynamic solar export dispatch trials to remotely monitor and control commercial rooftop solar systems.
- Trial of advanced solar forecasting using sky cameras and inverters installed across Alice Springs.
- Inverter bench-testing at Charles Darwin University's REMHART facility to assess the capability of residential inverters to provide contingency frequency control in response to an induced frequency event.
- Development of a dedicated website for the project providing a forum for knowledge sharing with the community.
- Publication of three lessons learned reports.
- Ongoing development of an Alice Springs Roadmap to 2030 Report based on the lessons learned to be delivered at the end of the project.