



GRID IMPACT ASSESSMENT FINDINGS RELEASED

With increased global and national focus on the use of renewable energy, Connect Saint Helena Ltd (Connect) has been keen to gain an evidence-based understanding of the impact of private PV systems on the national electricity grid.

A Grid Impact Assessment (GIA) is an evaluation of how the electricity grid is affected by changes, in this case by the addition of grid connected private PV systems. The GIA comprises a number of different assessments of issues such as power quality, load flows, and grid protection. The cumulative impacts from each of these were then assessed to build an overall picture of the electricity network.

The GIA has been a lengthy exercise and for various reasons took longer than planned. Connect would like to thank stakeholders for their patience and understanding during this time.

The recommendations in the GIA will impact each PV owner differently depending on the individual nature of their systems such as size, transformer location, etc. As a first step in communicating the conclusions from the Grid Impact Assessment, Connect has written to the owners of existing grid connected private PV owners and to those persons who had registered an interest in installing grid connected private PV. These stakeholders are invited to arrange a meeting with Connect to talk through the conclusions and next steps. Please contact Anne Dillon via tel. 22255 or email anne.dillon@connect.co.sh to make the necessary arrangements.

More general information will follow over the coming weeks, including the dates of radio interviews and a public meeting. Connect will confirm times as soon as possible.

One of the key findings from the GIA is a recommendation that the Island should focus on utility-scale renewables, rather than individual small-scale PV systems. To this end Connect has been working towards the Energy Delivery Plan with the aim of achieving 80% renewables by 2027/28. Please see www.connect.co.sh for further details.



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