

# Battery Aggregation Pilot

Online information session May 5: Questions and answers

**Questions from attendees regarding the EOI process are provided here for the benefit of all parties interested in submitting an EOI for the Battery Aggregation Pilot Program.**

**Please note the following in line with advice from our probity advisors:**

The questions raised by all Applicants and the answers provided by Solar Victoria will be issued to all Applicants on our website unless they are considered as commercial in confidence. If an Applicant's question is commercial in confidence, the Applicant must mark their questions as "commercial in confidence". Once Solar Victoria receives a commercial in confidence question, Solar Victoria will assess the nature of the question and determine whether the question is commercial in confidence. If Solar Victoria believes the question is commercial in confidence, Solar Victoria will only provide the answer to the Applicant that raised the question. If Solar Victoria does not believe the question is commercial in confidence, Solar Victoria will inform the Applicant in which case the Applicant can either withdraw the entire question without an answer being provided by Solar Victoria or withdraw the claim for commercial in confidence in which case the question and the answer will be published to all Applicants.

## Questions and answers

**If I don't make it into the first round of the pilot, can I apply to take part in the second round?**

Yes. Any applicant who is not successful or unable to submit an application for the first round will be encouraged to apply for the second round by submitting an Expression of Interest. The dates of the second round will be confirmed at a later time.

**Will eligibility for the aggregation rebates be the same for non-aggregation rebates?**

The eligibility criteria for the aggregation rebates are currently the same as the eligibility criteria for the Solar Homes Program. In summary, this means that applicant households must earn less than \$180,000 per annum, live in a home worth less than \$3 million and cannot have accessed a rebate before. More information on the eligibility criteria is available on the Solar Victoria website under the [Solar Homes Program](#)

**Is there a likelihood that solar PV can be installed simultaneous to the battery?**

Solar Victoria will be considering this closely throughout the roll-out of the pilot program. Our findings, and your feedback, will help us to determine if this is a viable option in the future of the program.

**Is there an expectation that the battery aggregation provider will also be the seller or installer of the battery? If yes, will Solar Victoria consider making the rebate available in a situation where the provider and seller or installer are different parties?**

Solar Victoria are rolling out the pilot through a co-design process. This means that we will work with our partners, who are approved aggregation providers, and consider all possible arrangements that will lead to the best outcome for consumers. We are open to different styles of programs, with our main focus being on working together to benefit the consumer.



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## **Is there a value difference on rebates between batteries that are aggregated compared with those that aren't?**

As they currently stand, there is no value difference between aggregated and non-aggregated battery rebates, with both being valued at \$4,174.00. Please note that any changes to that figure will be released in a timely manner.

## **Will the rebates be available for homes that are new builds?**

For the first stage of the pilot program, rebates will not be made available for batteries being installed at newly built homes. However, the program is a pilot and relies on a co-design process; if our partners identify this as an important factor, Solar Victoria will strongly consider including new builds in the future.

## **Is there a requirement that projects are new and do not replicate what is already in the market?**

No, there is no requirement for the projects to be new. We welcome existing aggregation projects and invite interstate or national operators to expand into the Victorian market. Our primary focus is to expand the number of participants in the program and to deliver benefits to the consumer which will help us to inform future policy initiatives.

## **What will be the timeframe between the rebates being announced to the public and the rebates being made available to the consumers? I am concerned that if there is an extended delay during this period, there will be a negative impact on sales.**

Solar Victoria has an existing battery rebate program that is currently open and available for any interested party meeting the eligibility criteria. While Solar Victoria will make announcements on the pilot program, the announcements will focus on seeking partners to work with and promoting the Expression of Interest. Where there are further announcements in the public domain, Solar Victoria will do this in collaboration with partners to circumvent any possibility of stalled sales.

## **What are the knowledge sharing and reporting obligations of the program?**

Solar Victoria are partnering with a third party, C4NET, who will determine the appropriateness and extent of any knowledge sharing. This partnership will assess exactly what is needed to inform research, and to agree on a data-stream that will be as deidentified as possible.

In terms of individual aggregators, Solar Victoria will establish a process for confidential and efficient knowledge sharing. This will be a one-on-one transaction between individual partners and Solar Victoria. The information collection will be focussed on customer experience. It is unlikely that it will need to be of a commercial nature or sensitive in any way. The exact requirements will be outlined in the contractual process and made clear to all participants.

## **Can applicants include different projects within the one proposal?**

Solar Victoria are considering a range of aggregation projects. Applicants are encouraged to include any materials in their application that they see fit.