

**Supplementary questions for witnesses appearing at the hearing on 6 March 2025 –
Inquiry into the electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024 Tilt
Renewables**

1. What do you think it is important for the community to understand about why the solar farm and wind farm weren't able to provide energy to the region when it was disconnected from the NEM?
 - Tilt became aware that some people in the community did not understand why our wind and solar farms could not be used to power the town while the transmission line was down. As a result, Tilt reached out to local ABC radio and the Renew Economy newsletter and provided information explaining that while our assets were in good shape and ready to go, they could not generate energy until the connection to the broader Transgrid transmission network was restored. The Generator Performance Standard for both the wind farm and the solar plant prevented generation. However, Tilt's assets in the region were ready to generate once the transmission lines were repaired and local transmission network re-energised.
2. Why do the Generator Performance Standards for the wind farm and solar farm prevent those facilities from supply power to the region when it is operating in islanded mode? a. What risks does that avoid by ensuring they don't operate? b. Does it require a certain level of power to operate?
 - Generator Performance Standards for wind and solar farms, while designed to ensure grid stability, can prevent these facilities from supplying power during islanded mode due to the risk of voltage instability and the inability to maintain grid frequency.
3. At the hearing you talked about providing practical support to residents and businesses. Could provide more detail about that practical support provided?
 - Tilt Renewable's communication focus was on supporting the community as much as possible during the outage, especially Silverton which neighbours the wind farm.
 - Tilt contacted the Community Consultative Committee which highlighted the need to provide Silverton residents with back-up generators. Tilt also contacted the Broken Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council, Meals on Wheels and Lifeline Broken Hill to offer support.

The support provided by Tilt included:

- Donating 48 generators for Silverton community and Broken Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council housing. This included electrical work so generators can be used to run a household in the event of future outages.
 - \$5,000 donation to Meals on Wheels to provide food for people in the community.
 - Funding of 50 vouchers worth \$50 each to be provided through Lifeline to vulnerable people in the community to replace lost food.
 - Lifeline was offered a generator, but the organisation requested instead the installation of solar panels to the same value.
4. You noted in the hearing that, with modifications, Tilt's wind and solar farms could be better utilised to support a microgrid and supplement supply from the Hydrostor facility during future outages. Can you describe what kind of modifications would be needed?
- Tilt would need modifications to the Generator Performance Standards to allow operation under the microgrid scenario and in addition the control system would need to be modified to support operations. This may involve both hardware and software upgrades to the wind and solar farm communications and control systems.
5. Is Tilt Renewables working with Hydrostor to ensure that those existing renewable energy generation projects can be utilised to recharge the A-CAES when islanded from the NEM, in order to provide a longer period of backup supply of energy if needed?
- Tilt has been engaging with Transgrid to understand and explore how the Solar Farm and Wind Farm may possibly be utilised to maintain a reliable power supply to Broken Hill in the event of an X2 outage.
6. In your submission, you recommended that there should be a unified approach to communication during electricity outages. a. What might a unified approach entail? b. Which organisations and agencies should be part of this unified communication approach? c. Which organisations should be responsible for coordinating this unified approach? d. What issues did you see arising from having a fragmented approach to communication?

- As noted in our response to question 1, we became aware of community questions around why our wind farm and solar farm were not operating and wanted to provide clarity on this point.
- In this situation, a coordinated approach between government, AEMO, TNSP, DNSP and generators in the region to develop required messaging and feedback on community concerns could support better community communication outcomes.