VIC Emergency Backstop

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Lead CER Integration Engineer

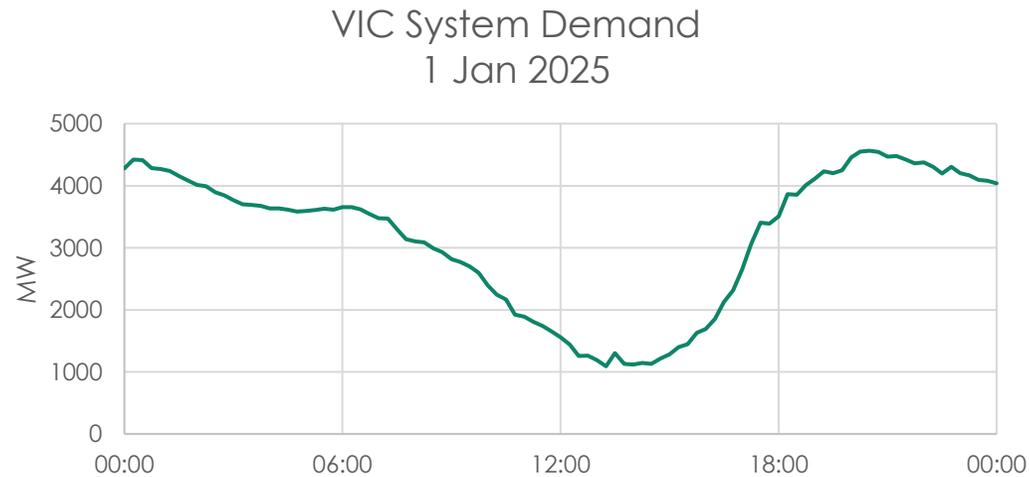2 Oct 2025 | CSIP-Aus Connect 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

AusNet acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay respects to Elders past and present and celebrate their continuing connection to Country.
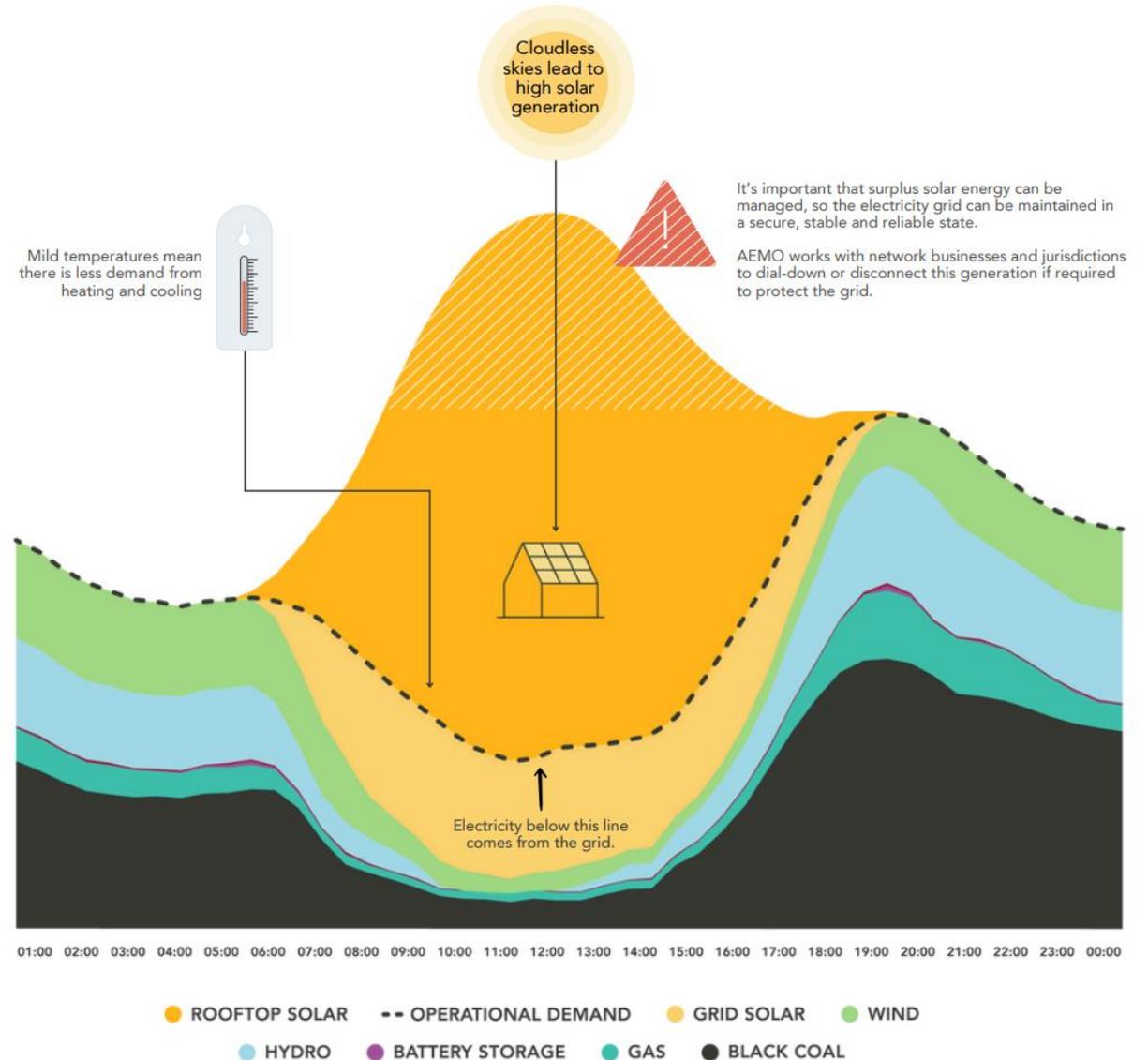
Minimum System Load

Australia's **world-leading uptake** of rooftop solar has led to **one-third** of detached homes with rooftop solar

On **sunny**, **mild** temperature day, **rooftop solar** can **reduce** need from **grid scale** generators
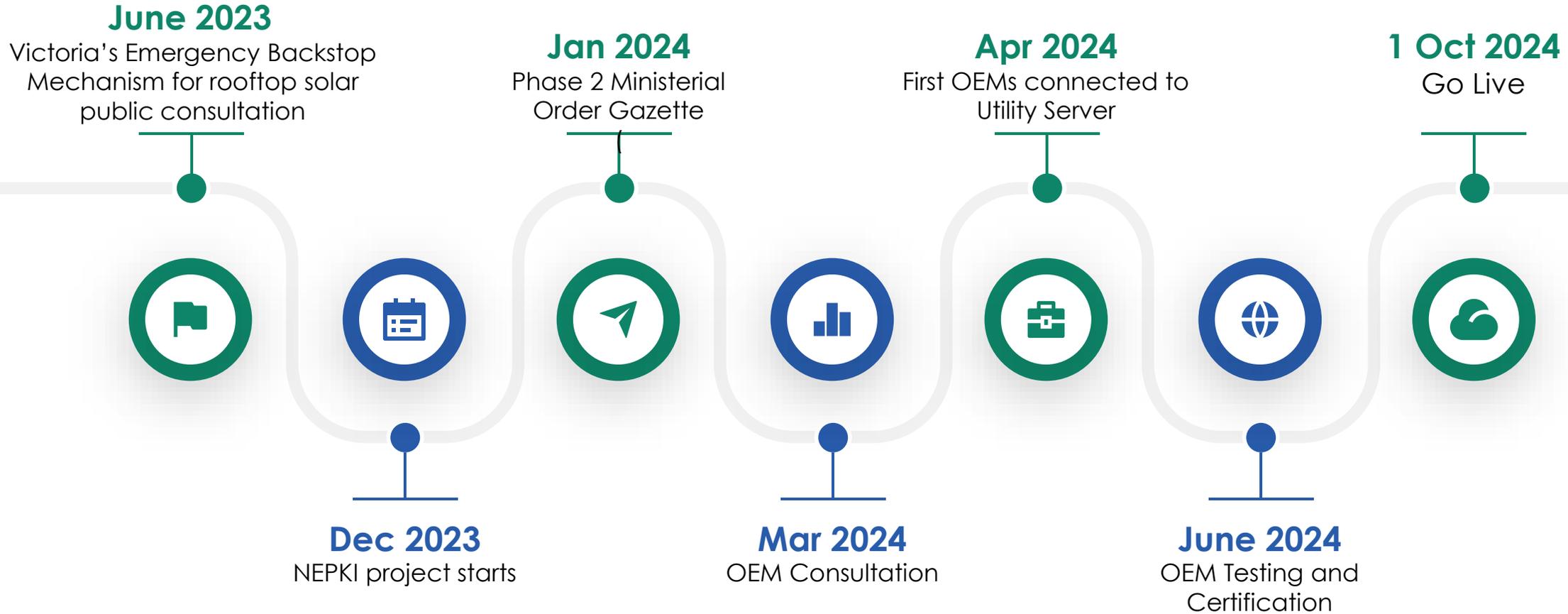
VIC System Demand
1 Jan 2025

The ingredients for a high rooftop solar/minimum system demand day

Cloudless skies lead to high solar generation

Mild temperatures mean there is less demand from heating and cooling

It's important that surplus solar energy can be managed, so the electricity grid can be maintained in a secure, stable and reliable state.

AEMO works with network businesses and jurisdictions to dial-down or disconnect this generation if required to protect the grid.

Electricity below this line comes from the grid.

01:00 02:00 03:00 04:00 05:00 06:00 07:00 08:00 09:00 10:00 11:00 12:00 13:00 14:00 15:00 16:00 17:00 18:00 19:00 20:00 21:00 22:00 23:00 00:00

● ROOFTOP SOLAR - - OPERATIONAL DEMAND ● GRID SOLAR ● WIND
● HYDRO ● BATTERY STORAGE ● GAS ● BLACK COAL

Source: AEMO Operating electricity grid with rooftop solar

VIC Solar Backstop

AusNet

June 2023
Victoria's Emergency Backstop
Mechanism for rooftop solar
public consultation

Jan 2024
Phase 2 Ministerial
Order Gazette

Apr 2024
First OEMs connected to
Utility Server

1 Oct 2024
Go Live

Dec 2023
NEPKI project starts

Mar 2024
OEM Consultation

June 2024
OEM Testing and
Certification

4

Key Takeaways

Installer

Export meters not installed and CTs reversed

Incorrect **configuration** of inverter or gateway

Allow time to pass **capability testing**

Some **site revisits** required (e.g. troubleshooting or new builds)

Strict adherence to **solar application process** required

Inconsistency between DNSP and OEM registration experiences

OEM

Disaggregated testing:

- CSIP-Aus listing - **SAPN**
- **DNSP specific** testing

Different behaviour:

- **no export meter** installed
- **comms lost** between aggregator and local client

Software upgrade could introduce new issues

Device support shared with DNSPs = customer ping pong

DNSP

Ongoing **monitoring**:

- **Server** performance
- **Client** behaviour

Customer portal:

- Targeted error messaging
- **Robust** UX design and extensive **user testing**
- Uplift in **direct customer communications** including new move-in process

Capability testing evolving

Continuous Improvement

AusNet

Thank you.