

5 December 2011
Mr Tyson Self
Manager Projects, Access,
Economic Regulation Authority,
publicsubmissions@erawa.com.au

Professor Syed Islam


Dear Sir,

I am writing this submission to support the Western Power initiative AA3 with respect to their proposal on a smart metering infrastructure.

Smart Metering Infrastructure projects have been trialled in Europe, USA, Korea and other developed countries with success. Western Power's proposal to replace 280,000 meters with smart meters is a very timely and visionary initiative and would put WA as a leading Australian state in implementing smart grid enabling technology. In order to keep our electricity prices to an affordable level, we must proceed with smart grid implementation. As a nation we can not continue to invest on peak generating units which are only used a fraction of the time in the year resulting in poor utilization factor for these units. Smart metering infrastructures (SMIs) have the ability to control peak demand through customer participation. Future implementation of Home Area Networks (HAN), Local Area Networks (LAN) and Wide Area Networks (WAN) will all could be built on the smart meter enabler. Smart meters have the capacity together with HAN, LAN, and WAN to keep demand in control and establish an active distribution network.

It is anticipated that Electric Vehicle (EV) and Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) will dominate the transportation sector in the not too distant future. Car manufacturing companies in the USA are predicting huge growth in the EV and PHEV range. Smart meters provide an opportunity for demand control for the battery charging loads and what more could also provide opportunities for peak generating unit relief when discharging of the batteries at strategic locations and strategic times are considered through remote communication made available through the SMIs.

As an academic, I see great opportunity in transforming our electricity distribution network in bringing in energy sustainability, demand rationale, consumer empowerment and participation in energy usages aligned with national interests.

I strongly support Western Power's proposal in deploying 280,000 smart meters that will brand Western Australia as a smart state, Western Power as a smart utility and Western Australia's electricity consumers a future of engagement in electricity consumption leading to an affordable power sector.

Regards



Professor Syed Islam, FIET, FIEAust, SMIEEE, CEng (UK), MCIGRE (APD1)