



# Regional WA's Electricity Landscape and its Future.

# A view of regional Western Australia

## Remote communities



Marble Bar	Camballin/Looma
Nullagine	Djarindjin/Lombadina
Warmun	Kalumburu
Wiluna	Yungngora
Ardyaloon	Fitzroy Crossing
Beagle Bay	Halls Creek
Bidyadanga	

## Small tourism and agricultural / mining towns



Denham	Sandstone	Mount Magnet
Exmouth	Menzies	Onslow
Hopetoun	Gascoyne Junction	Wyndham
Laverton	Cue	
Norseman	Coral Bay	
Yalgoo	Meekatharra	

## Regional centres



Broome	Port Hedland
Carnarvon	
Esperance	
Karratha	
Kununurra	

## NWIS Regulatory Reform



- This reform will involve increased use of Horizon Power's networks by others through a light handed regulatory regime
- Creation of the customer framework
- Changes to the funding arrangements for Horizon Power (the Tariff Equalisation Contribution) and;
- Changes to the way in which the NWIS networks are operated role allocation for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) as the Independent System Operator (ISO).

- Residential customers at times experiencing financial hardship and want more control over their bills
- High rates of tenancy creating disengagement in energy management and/or barriers to DER installation

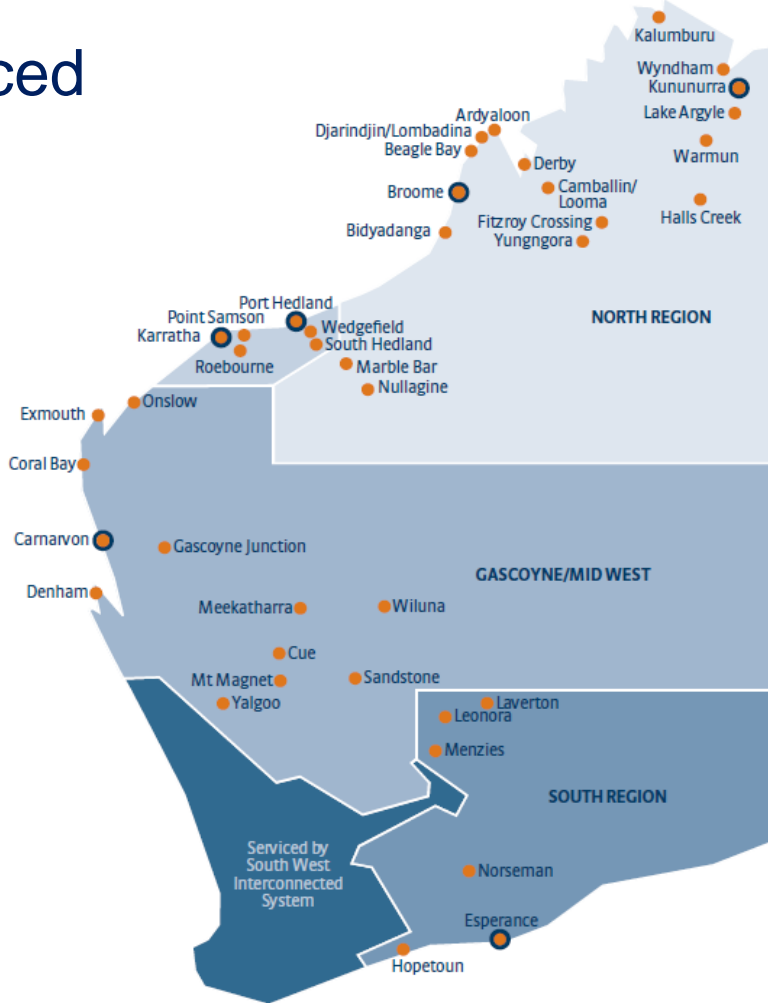
- High rates of tenancy creating disengagement in energy management and/or barriers to DER installation
- Strong seasonal or annual variation of population depending on commercial activity creating costly peak capacity to service for a short period of time

- Thriving towns replicating all the needs of capital cities at a smaller scale
- Still strongly dependant on centralised generation but present opportunities to shrink the grid around them
- Create the incentives for development of economical activities around them

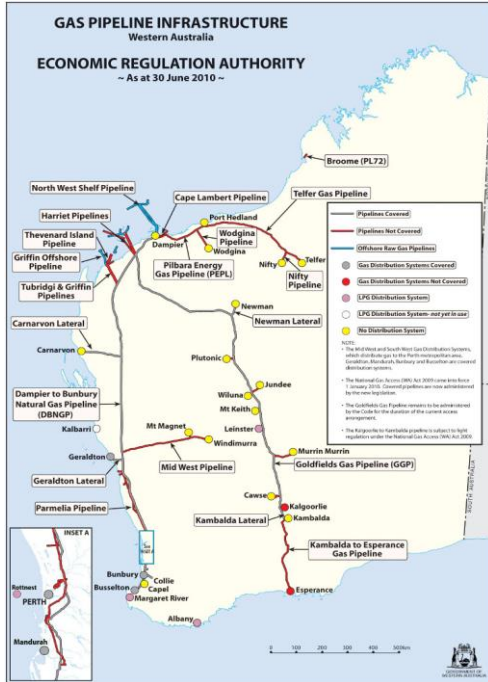
# Horizon Power is uniquely placed



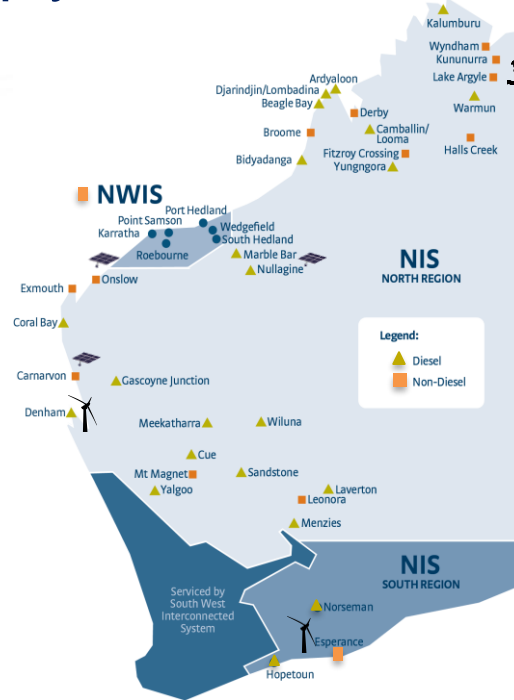
- Horizon Power is vertically-integrated
- Serves all of WA except for the South West Interconnected System
- 30+ remote microgrids
- Advanced metering
- 1 customer per 58 km<sup>2</sup>



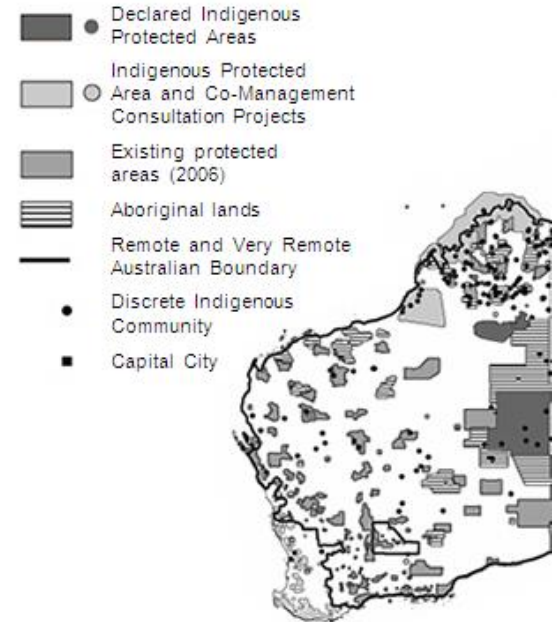
# Regional energy supply



Gas pipeline infrastructure



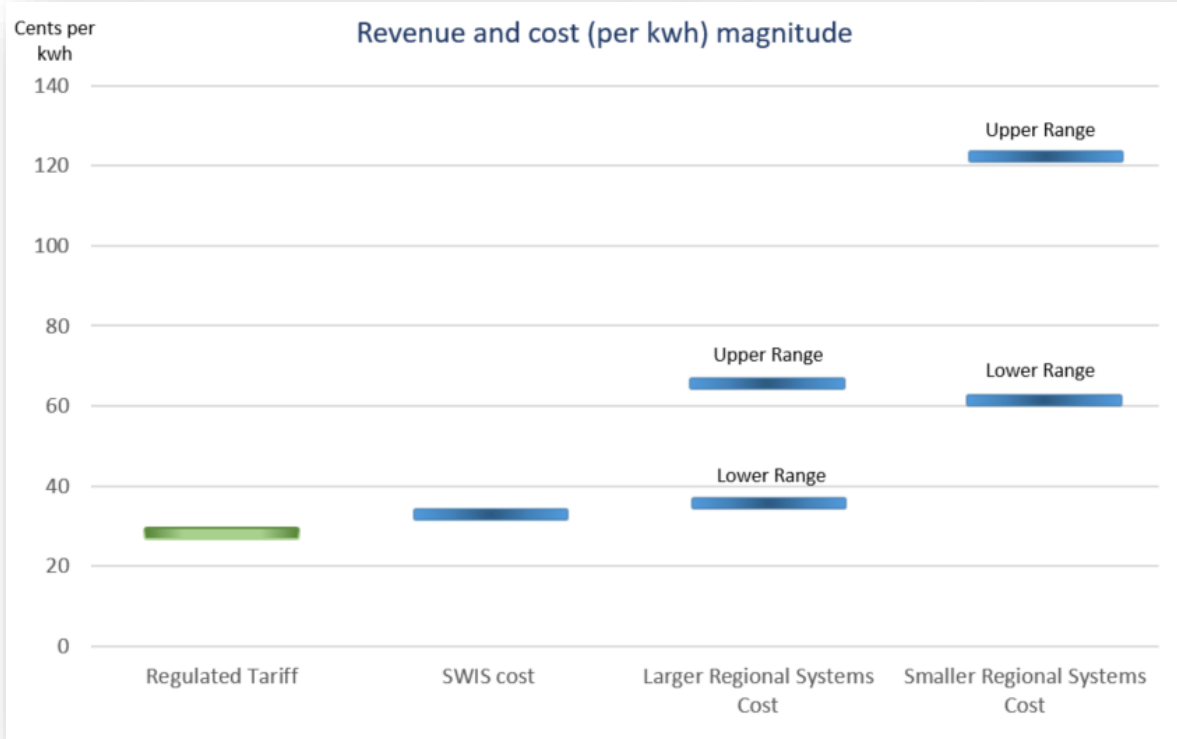
Horizon Power System Fuel Type



There are approximately 200 additional remote microgrids that are not operated by Horizon Power

Jon Aliman & Bill Fogarty, Indigenous Australians as 'No Gaps' Subjects Education and Development in Remote Australia The Australian National University. Available from: <http://books.publishing.monash.edu/apps/bookworm/view/Cloning+the+Gap+in+Education%3F182.xhtml?part%3Fchapter01.html>

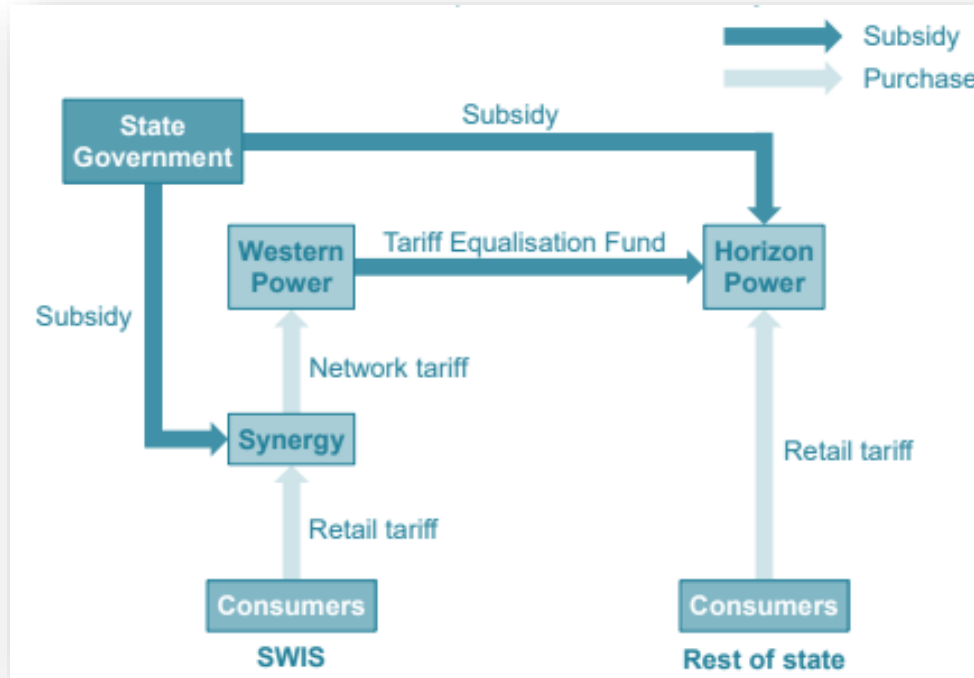
# Revenue and cost to supply magnitudes



## Subsidy range

- Level of subsidy depends on the system and customer type.
- System fuel mix and network size are key cost drivers.

# Subsidy framework



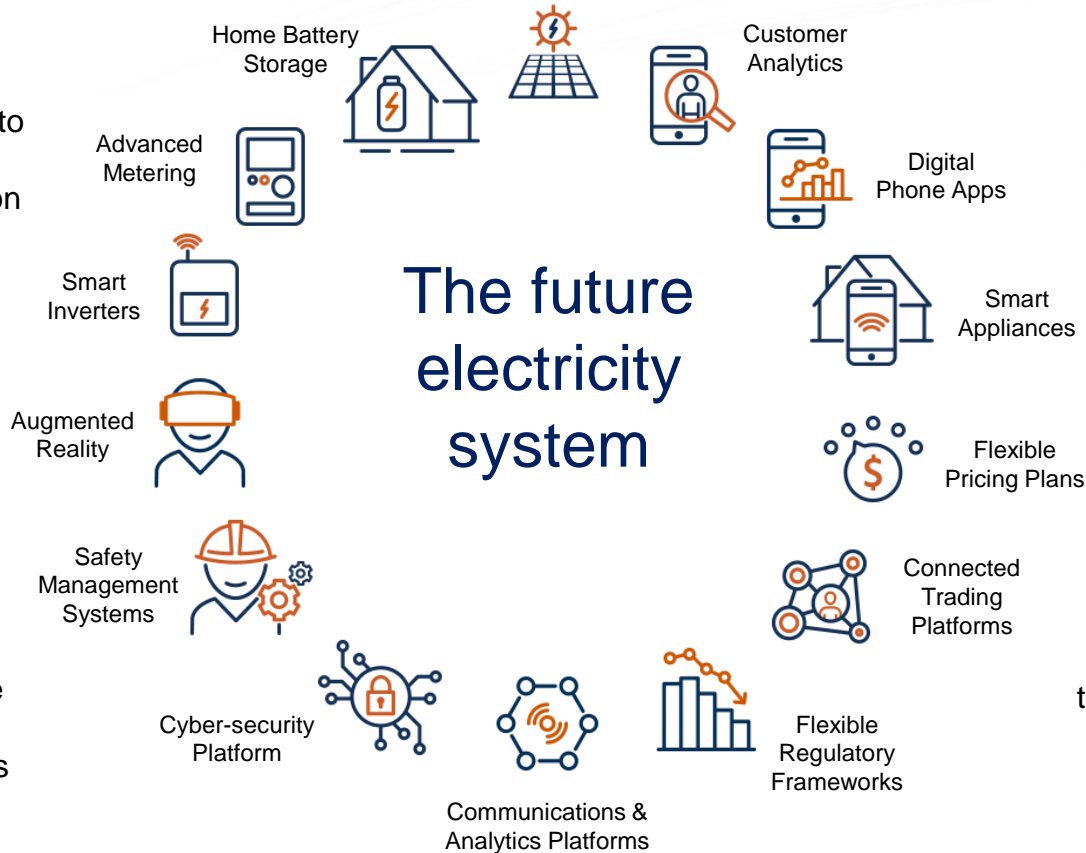
State Government pays a direct subsidy to Synergy and Horizon Power. Western Power customers pay an indirect subsidy to Horizon Power's customers through the TEF.

# The future

Distributed solar

## Technology

Will be decentralised to produce, consume, store & sell low-carbon electricity locally



## Customers

Will be empowered to use electricity how they choose, supported by new products & services

## Markets

Will use data analytics to connect & incentivise participants to drive equitable pricing

# Remote high cost locations – opportunities and challenges

## Opportunities

- Digitalisation. Eg: Advanced metering infrastructure, mobile bill payments and energy monitoring
- Reduced costs by embracing renewables
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Equitable pricing
- Value added energy services

## Challenges

- Small market
- Comparatively low household income
- High percentage of bills rebated or paid by a third party
- High level of transience
- Low level of owner occupiers
- Remote worker / skill shortages
- Seasonal weather events and harsh climate
- Communications infrastructure inadequacies



# The rapid change is already upon us ...

*Modular generation capacity*



*High penetration renewable energy and storage*



*Stand-alone Power Systems*



*Intelligent System Control*

High penetration  
renewables and  
storage

*Multi-Flow network*

Standalone  
power systems

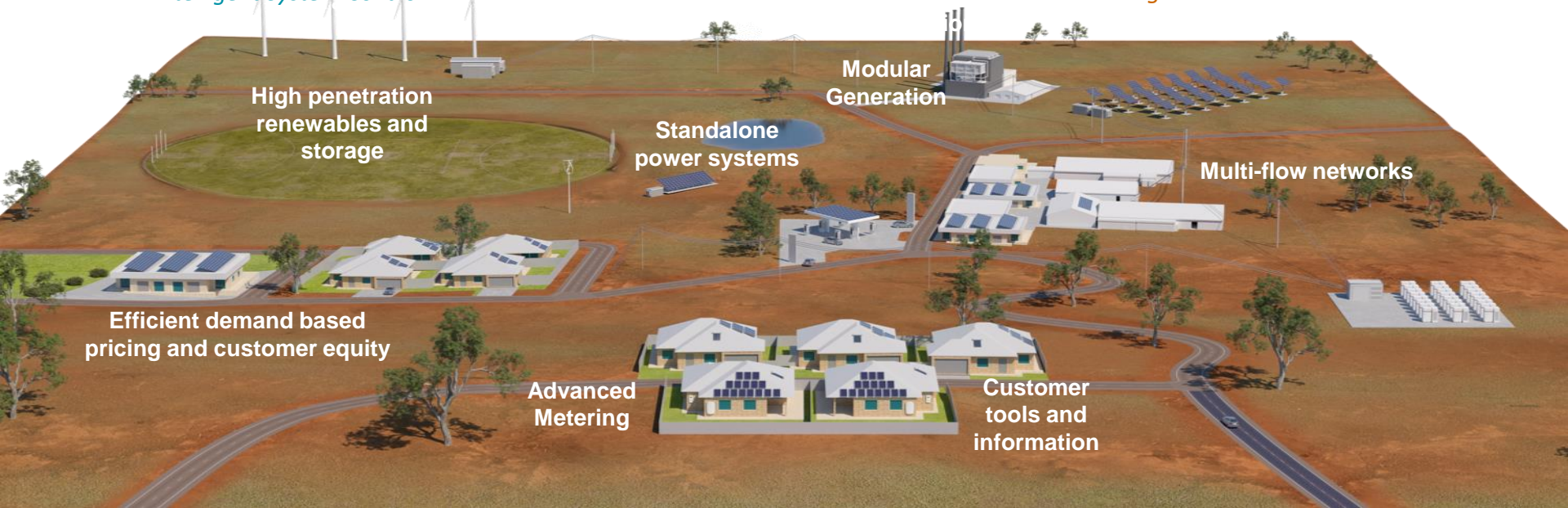
*Intelligent Consumer Services*

Multi-flow networks

Efficient demand based  
pricing and customer equity

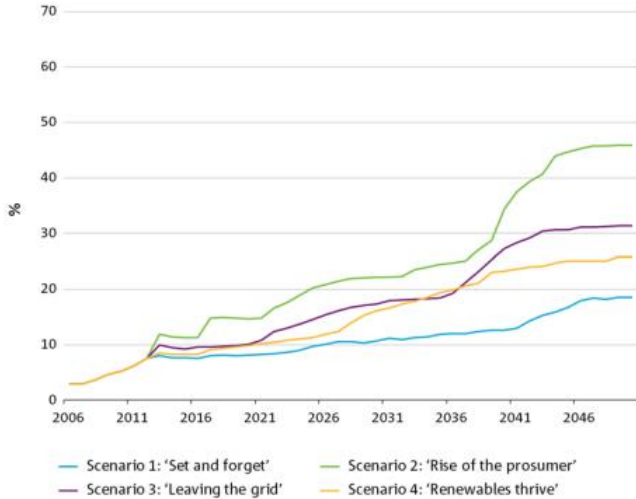
Advanced  
Metering

Customer  
tools and  
information

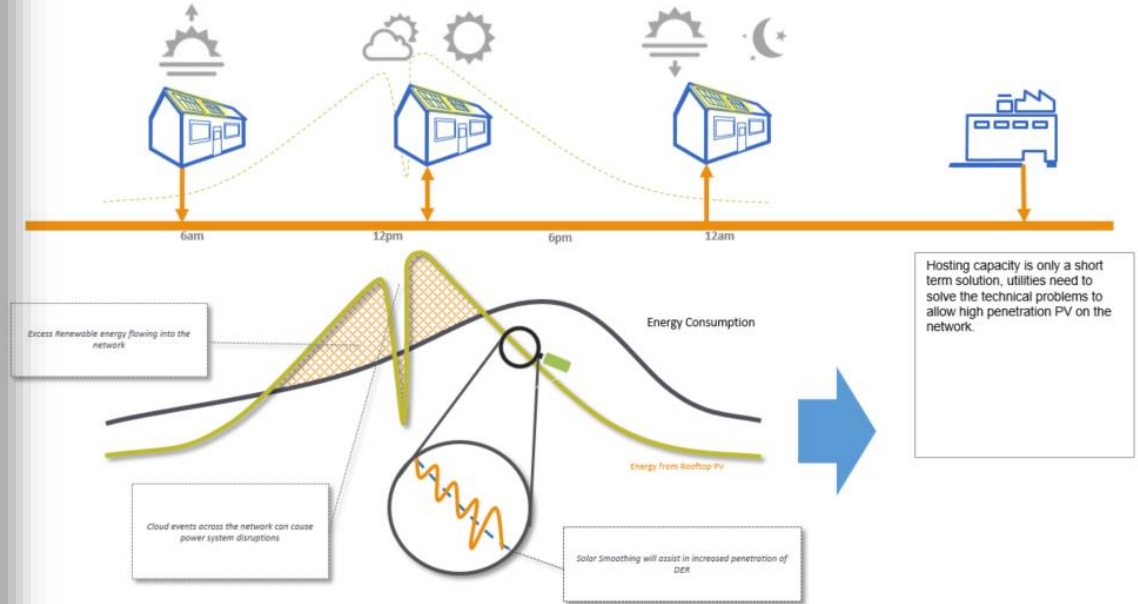


# Mega Challenge- Hosting Renewables

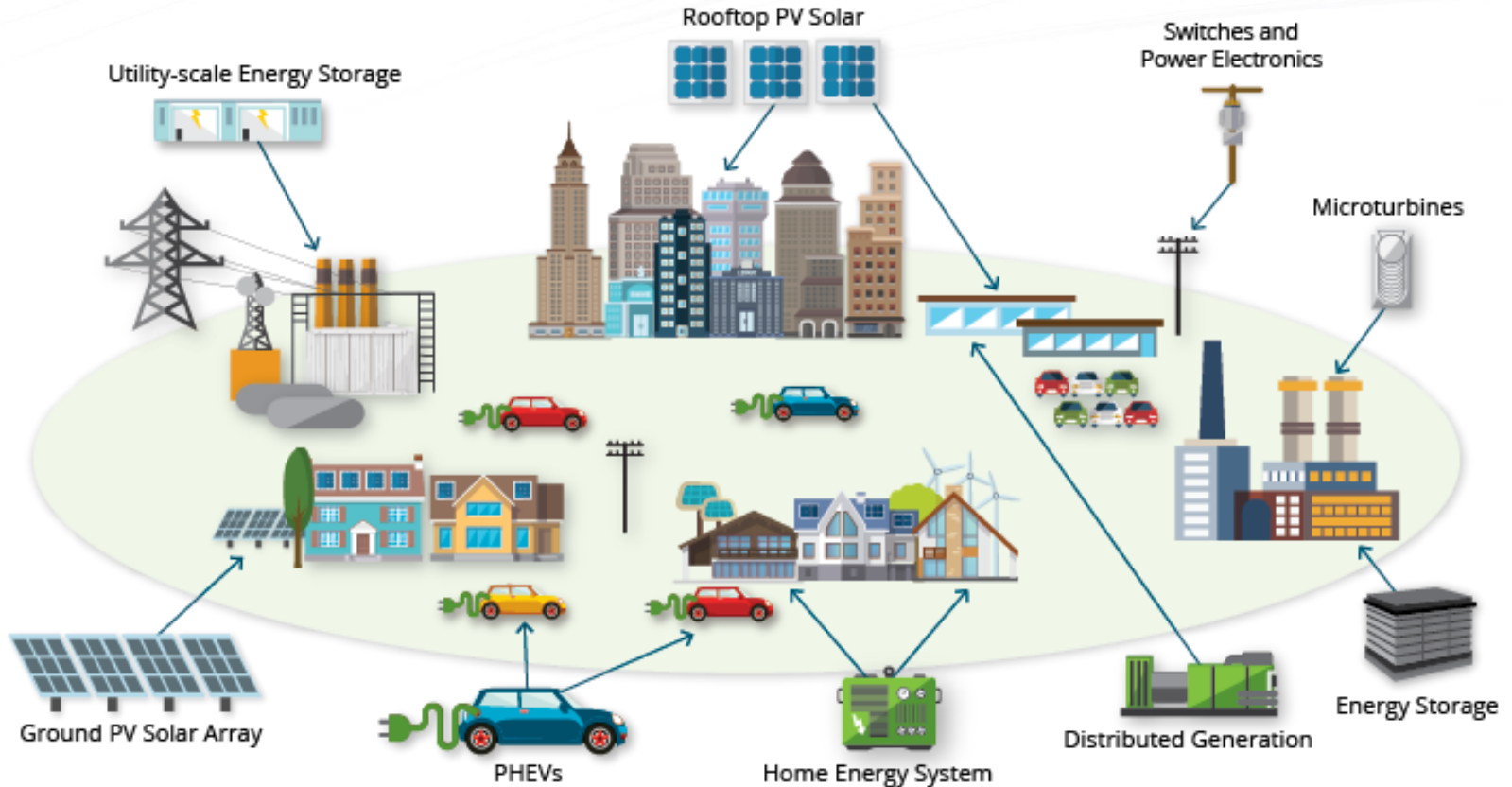
Figure 16: Projected share of on-site generation (all states)



CSIRO: Change and choice - The Future Grid Forum's analysis of Australia's potential electricity pathways to 2050



# Future Challenge- many things to manage



# Leading the energy revolution - The Onslow Story



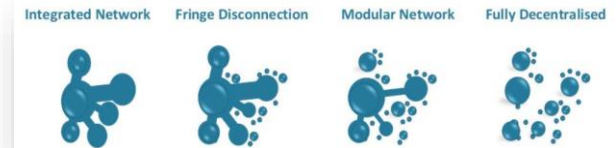
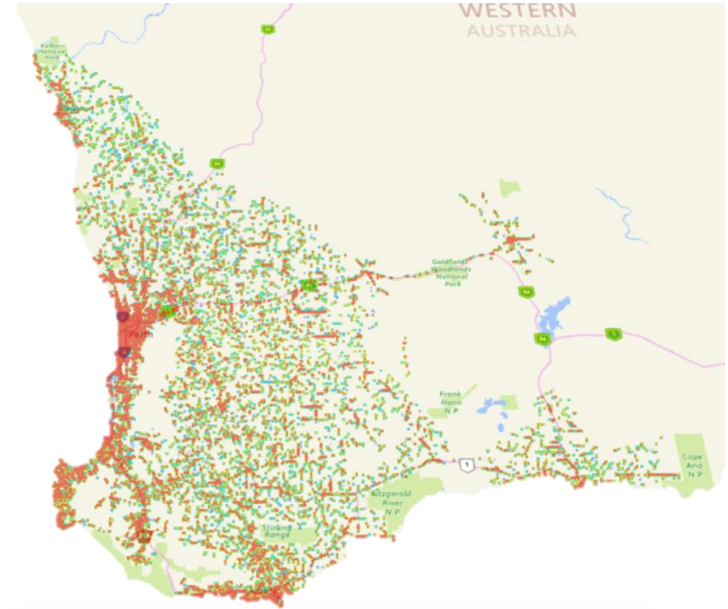
- Home to Australia's largest DER microgrid.
- 50% of the town's electricity needs to be serviced from renewable energy sources.
- Includes a mix of distributed renewables, conventional gas powered generation and energy storage.
- Will reduce cost to supply Onslow and provide more flexibility for customers

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3glvLZt\\_Kc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3glvLZt_Kc)



# Future electricity grids may be a 'federation' of microgrids

- Electricity systems supplied by millions of micro-generation sources (not a handful large centralised generators) need new control architectures.
- Microgrids can provide this architecture at a local level and enable thousands of DERs to operate in harmony and constantly balance supply and demand.
- Large traditional grids may be re-architected over time for optimal efficiency as a federation of microgrids; usually functioning together but sometime independently (to minimise widespread outages).





Thank You