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“Beat the Peak” demand management project attracts more than 1600 home registrations..... with six weeks still to go

More than 1600 homes with refrigerated airconditioning have already registered to join the ETSA Utilities’ “Beat the Peak” demand management trial which will take place in the Glenelg area over the next two summers.

“Beat the Peak”, which has been commissioned by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA), was launched on 6 June and there are six weeks of the home registration phase remaining. The target number of homes is 2000.

“The project planning is working well, and the volunteer numbers are running ahead of schedule,” said Lew Owens CEO ETSA Utilities. “We are obviously delighted with the response. It shows an encouraging level of community support. We are confident from the number of registrations so far, that we will most definitely be able to more than access the load we require for the trial.”

More than 2500 phone calls and registration forms had been received by ETSA Utilities for the trial. “However we encountered a higher proportion of evaporative and small window-installed airconditioners than expected in the area,” said Mr Owens. “Neither is suitable for the trial, but, again, that response to our request for volunteers shows the community interest.”

The current number of registrations does not include the area’s large apartment complexes, motels, and shops with whom ETSA Utilities is currently discussing registration. Also being contacted are schools, kindergartens and aged care facilities.

Again response has been positive. The total load that can be trialled from this targeted grouping of customers will provide a strong additional load margin for the required research.

“As we said when launching the project last month, the plan is to measure the reduction in peak demand we can achieve, and how that impacts on local street transformers and the area’s two substations,” said Mr Owens.

ETSA Utilities is still receiving an average of 20 suitable home airconditioner registrations each day.

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About ETSA Utilities

ETSA Utilities is South Australia’s electricity distributor, delivering energy from the transmission network through poles, wires, substations and transformers to more than 770,000 customers. With more than 50 years experience, we are one of South Australia’s largest organisations which employs more than 1400 people throughout metropolitan and regional South Australia.

ETSA Utilities is 51 percent owned by Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited and Hongkong Electric Holdings, which form part of the Cheung Kong Group of companies. The remaining 49 percent is owned by Spark Infrastructure. Spark Infrastructure began trading on the ASX in December 2005.