

The Time is Now

Getting **smarter** with the grid

C4NET Event: 'Reimagining an optimised grid with abundant storage'

26 February 2025



Together with large-scale generation & transmission, there are opportunities within the distribution grid that can be unlocked and enabled now



Driven by customer outcomes

Energy wallet modelling was used to identify the most impactful opportunities to benefit customers



Using what we have, better

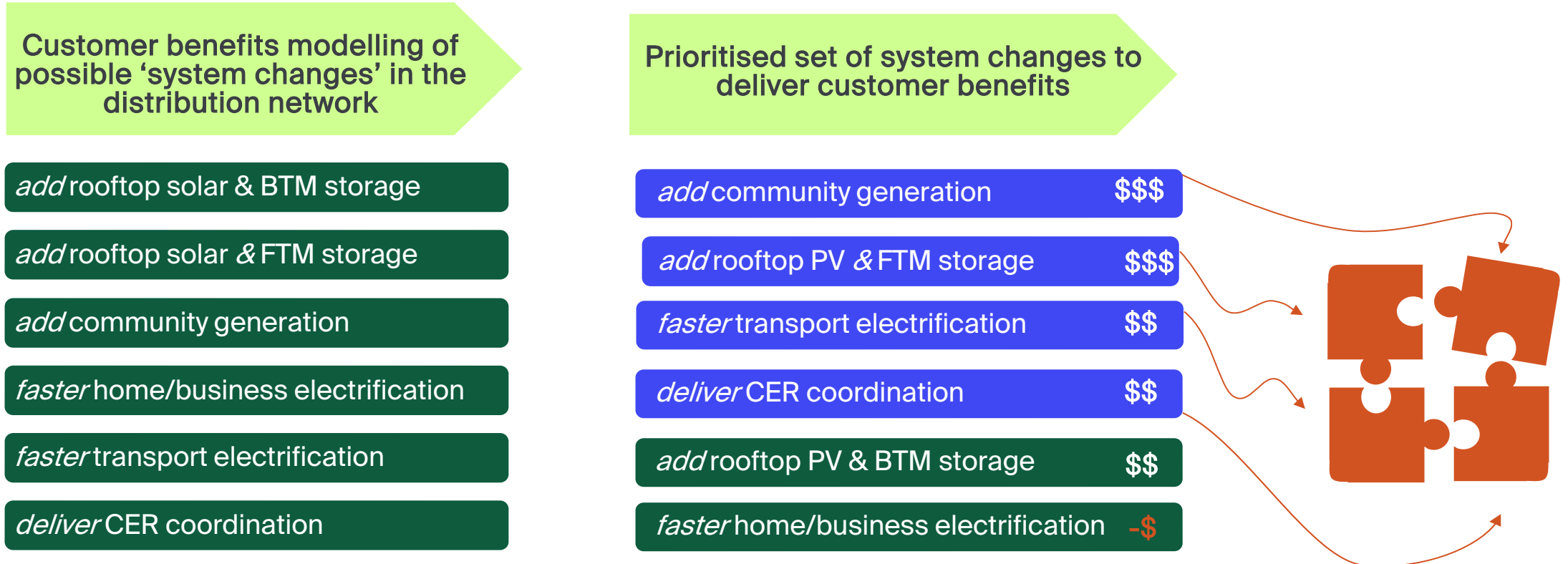
Results demonstrate that the distribution network can do more of the heavy lifting now to help achieve our targets and deliver benefits to customers



Actions that can be unlocked now

Customer benefits can be unlocked by a set of targeted, pragmatic actions that are achievable with the existing assets, workforce, resources and framework that we have today

Identified the most impactful opportunities to benefit customers using comprehensive whole of energy wallet modelling



Getting smarter with the grid

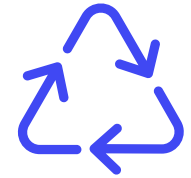
By 2030




**Customers save
\$160 a year**



**Reduces the
transition price
tag by \$7 billion
a year**



**Helps secure
82%
renewables**



Customer benefits can be unlocked by a set of targeted, pragmatic actions available under our existing framework

Link Local Energy Hubs

Allow distribution networks to **establish and operate local energy hubs** to add 7GW of additional community generation for all to benefit from

Amplify Untapped Solar

Provide incentives for commercial operators to get 5GW of additional **solar panels installed on existing rooftops** and share it with the local community

Soak up Surplus Solar

Better utilise the extra capacity of **batteries connected directly to the local grid** and get an additional 5GW connected, so all customers benefit

Plug in more EV Chargers

Classify kerbside EV chargers as a distribution service to **put more EV chargers in** to get 1M more EVs on the road

Sync with the Grid

Sync resources to the grid in a **coordinated and flexible way** so that the benefits can be shared with the community, and we can avoid \$37B in network assets

Report proposes 14 specific actions that are **achievable with the assets, workforce, resources and framework we have today**



Soak up Surplus Solar

The need



As **rooftop solar penetration continues to rise**, it is necessary for this to be supported by **localised energy storage**. Localised battery storage has the potential to deliver significant benefits to customers, allowing the low-cost generation output of rooftop solar to be stored locally and then re-consumed during the peak.

The opportunity



‘The Missing Middle’: **batteries installed by DNSPs in distribution zone substations are a scale-efficient way of installing storage deep in the distribution network**. These batteries have a lower capital cost per kWh of storage than BTM batteries and allow the benefits of localised generation and storage to be shared between all energy consumers.

This proposal is a **partnership with third parties to enable the full battery value stack**, with clear guardrails and protections.

The action



To enable this partnership, there are **two actions that can be taken by policy makers now**:

1. Introduce an AER class waiver to allow distributors to share battery capacity with third parties, enabling customers to benefit from the full battery value stack
2. Amend regulatory valuation methods to recognise the time-shifting ability of batteries to release customers’ solar when it’s most valuable

