



Outline of Solar Assessment Criteria

All applications to connect a solar PV system to a Solomon Power network require a technical assessment to be undertaken. This is because Solomon Power has an obligation to operate, maintain (including repair and replace as necessary), and protect its supply network to ensure the adequate, economic, reliable and safe connection and supply of electricity to its customers.

These assessments can also help customers avoid over-investing in systems that are too large to operate effectively at their point in the network.

Why applications need to be technically assessed

Solar PV systems have the potential to compromise the efficiency of the electricity network and cause voltage levels to fall outside the statutory ranges.

An inverter that is too large will trip off when the voltage rises above the set limit, and the system will not generate or export to the grid until the voltage comes back into an acceptable range.

Assessment thresholds

Solomon Power will undertake technical assessments of any application (regardless of rating) to connect to its Honiara network, or to any of the outstation networks.

Solomon Power reserves the right to assess any application and to change these thresholds at any time.

The technical assessment process

Our assessment process considers both the size of the inverter, the number of electrical phases of the premises, and the attributes of the local network servicing the premises.

The assessment references information including:

- The Registered Plan (RP) number and Lot number of the premises
- The capacity of the solar PV system inverter
- The capacity of the distribution transformer and local network that supply the premises
- The total capacity of solar PV systems already connected to the same transformer.

Assessment exclusions

The assessment does not consider:

- The condition of the household wiring.
- The number of solar PV panels that are planned for installation. The assessment only considers the size of the inverter.
- The amount of electricity that is typically used by the occupants of the premises during the day.