

Media Release



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Intelligent Network Trial lights the way

Essential Energy's Intelligent Network project is beginning to radiate benefits in the Bega Valley with one aspect of the program – the trial of Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlighting – showing significant energy consumption savings and improvements in public lighting.

While still in its early stages, the trial of new LED streetlights in Bega's main street recorded better than expected results in its six monthly progress report, shining the way for the use of the technology in other communities.

General Manager of the Intelligent Network, Michael Lysaght, said independent consultant Ironbark Sustainability, would continue to monitor the performance of the lights and report back to Essential Energy and Bega Valley Shire Council at the end of the 12-month pilot.

"So far the results have indicated that LEDs perform much better compared to conventional technologies with a saving of 65 per cent in energy consumption and an almost 40 per cent improvement of light cast on the ground," Michael said.

The installation of seven 90 watt LED lights to replace existing 250 watt mercury vapour lights in Carp Street between Church and Auckland streets is just one of a number of network-based projects included in Essential Energy's IN Community Trial.

The recent completion of the IN Meter roll-out program has paved the way for the introduction of other intelligent technology, including IN-Home Displays and an online energy portal for managing energy consumption.

"At our recent IN Community Information Day, we spoke to many participants who were interested in the next stage of the trial – the introduction of IN-Home Displays," Michael said.

"The free energy management tool allows trial participants to take control of their consumption with a click of a button by displaying energy usage in near real-time and an indicative consumption cost, as well as total consumption for a fixed period.

"By simply turning appliances on and off we were able to show visitors to the Community Information Day how much energy different appliances used."

As the trial progresses, Essential Energy is gathering feedback from participants to provide valuable insights into helping develop the Intelligent Network across regional New South Wales.

"We're also keeping the Bega and Tathra communities informed about the latest developments from the trial with our IN Community newsletter, *In the Loop*," Michael said.

Eligible customers interested in joining the trial can do so by calling 1800 363 749.

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