# The importance of the grid a PCC Energy Dialogue

Take time to reflect

### Tx Goal for Energy Balance

The Red line indicates the continuous delivery of the customer requirements





### **Tx Goal for Energy Balance**

### Principles of design

- Minimize distance between load & generation.
- Minimize network cost & losses
- Maximize load factor

### If all things are equal

- Each load center self-sufficient (Gx / load balance)
- Tx mainly used for reserve capacity & robustness

### All things are not equal

- Limited potential or high cost local Gx
- Long distances between load centers



### Capacity – Generation & Load distribution











22 28 34 25 26 27 38 29 50



### Solar - transmission and weather risks

Seamless solar energy in the energy models are dependant on location and weather conditions.

Harvesting solar at multiple locations is critical and requires transmission

Frequent cloud cover days, particularly in the north west, creates increase dependency on transmission from the south







### Wind - transmission and weather risks

Seamless wind energy in energy models are dependant on location and weather conditions.

Wind has significant variation of location

Harvesting wind at multiple locations is critical and requires transmission









# What does this mean for the Transmission network



Generation increase in the South

### Existing grid capacity

- 1. Eskom grid unlocking **Mpumalanga initiative** to encourage use of existing grid capacity
- 2. Enable additional capacity for renewables in the Western Cape by constraining of OCGT generation.
- 3. Access to grid capacity through local grid expansions.
- 4. Initiated major corridor strengthening.

#### 32 GW of Existing Tx Grid Supply Area Capacity

**5GW** 

**57GW** 

Cape Towr

**GCCA** 





SOUTH AFRICA

Port Elizabeth

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**RE Survey** 

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### **Unlocking future capacity**

Major projects planned in the Transmission Development Plan period



### Initiatives Underway – Servitudes for new grid capacity

Collaboration with government departments and provincial support to facilitate EIA, land and rights issue

However this remains a major risk with much uncertainty





### **Eskom network size**

• Overlay of Eskom network on Europe stretches from Gibraltar to Brussels

Transmission of large volumes of power over longer distances increases grid challenges

Grid Stability is more complex and requires a strong grid to ensure renewable inverter stability which is becoming more challenging

Short lines and more local generation / load balancing creates a stronger grid

Hence comparison of grids of other countries is not always appropriate

Each Grid has unique and different challenges

## What to look out for?

**Capacity** – Size, Mix, Dispatch

**Spatial** – Distribution, Spread, Distance

**Network** – Topology, Strength

Interconnectivity -Strength



## Gx Spatial Distribution - Spread





# Gx Spatial Distribution - Distance



1200	Ξ	1931.213	
Mile \$		Kilometre	\$



600	=	965.606	
Mile \$		Kilometre	\$

# Network Topology





### Network Topology Texas











https://www.eia.gov/state/maps.php

California 423,97K km<sup>2</sup> https://cecgiscaenergy.opendata.arcgis.com/app/ad8323410d9b47c1b1 a9f751d62fe495



#### https://energy-

charts.info/map/map.htm?l=en&c=DE&tab=powerplants&coun try=DE&state=0&datasource=bnetza&show=all&tml=&tso=



#### Kingdom 242,495K km<sup>2</sup>

https://www.carbonbrief.org/mapped-how-the-uk-generatesits-electricity



U.S. Energy Mapping System



### Network Interconnectivity



U.S. Energy Mapping System









#### Least amount of time at max inertia

0 5

y

Drops across all of the weeks Winter is lowered the most Summer more hours - low inertia

Lower inertia than traditionally many more periods predominantly in summer months

Zn



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_XA5PpK0LAY&t=488s

### Transmission and a strong grid is fundamental