Grid stabilization cook islands

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The renewable energy policy goal is focused on measuring progress on the accessibility, use and composition of energy and transport. Our country has been at the forefront of international efforts to harness renewable energy to meet its electricity needs, and have set electricity targets to be 100% renewable energy by 2020.

Beyond this plan, there is still much work that needs to be done to ensure that all Cook Islanders have affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to power our future. Transport is a crucial issue in our remote and widely dispersed island nation. There is a need for frequent and reliable linkages between islands and internationally. This is central to the concept of nationhood and impacts the livelihoods of our people.

1 This document provides an overview of the Plan, suitable for policy makers and investors. A companion technical document is available that provides details, explanations, and background data for the information in this overview.

Tourism is the main industry in the Cook Islands, contributing 68 percent towards GDP. Approximately 120,000 tourists visit the Cook Islands each year, spending their time mostly on Rarotonga and Aitutaki.

Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is approximately NZD$25,000 (2015

est.), and the Cook Islands has enjoyed an average growth of 3.0 percent per annum since the mid-1990s, though this has declined slightly in the past few years with estimated 2.1 percent growth in 2015 3. Like many countries in the Pacific, the Cook Islands face challenges based on its geographic isolation and small population.

Though a draw card for tourists, the country"s isolation exposes it to vulnerabilities, in particular higher costs associated with importing and exporting goods. All petroleum fuel is imported for transport, aviation and electricity at high and often volatile prices.

All inhabited islands of the Cook Islands currently have centralised power supplies, providing single phase (230 V) or three phase (415 V) through a distribution grid to most residential and commercial and industrial customers 4. Historically, diesel generators powered all of these systems. Since around 2011, increasing solar PV generation on Rarotonga has changed this situation. And in 2014-15, installation of solar-hybrid systems on Northern Group Islands further altered the mix.

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