

Niue solar energy storage

Director of Utilities Clinton Chapman said that there is much work to be done in the energy and power generation sector as they work towards meeting the targeted outputs in the current National Strategic Plan 2016-2026.

"So the things they were looking at during their mission was focused on looking at additional solar sites which will feed into the grid and also storage capacity for our battery system".

The instability issues affecting the national grid will also be addressed in particular the northern feeder starting from Alofi heading north east to the village of Liku.

"At the same time, they are also looking at some of the grid instability issues that we still have in the system and lingering, but these are some of the things that we will address"

At the recent National Summit Clinton Chapman presented on the situation with the government's key infrastructure assets including Niue Power, Water, Broadcasting Corporation, Telecom Niue, Transport, Civil and Quarry operations.

He told BCN News that the biggest challenge is the funding to upgrade key public infrastructure and utilities in addition to capacity issues but projects like this \$5 million Energy Project will go a long way to addressing at least one key sector which is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Like many island nations, Niue is heavily dependent on diesel fuel for power generation. While it may not face the level of threat from rising sea levels that other islands do; the country's government is keen to wean itself off expensive fossil fuels and to cut emissions.

Currently 98 percent of the island's electricity is provided by diesel generators and fuel imports represent more than 15 percent of the country's GDP. Approximately 69% of diesel fuel imported into Niue is used for power generation; around 800,000 litres.

According to Radio New Zealand, while the main focus of Niue's energy transition will be on solar power; the potential of other renewables such as wind power, biomass and wave energy will be investigated.

The transition will cost an estimated USD \$26 million and the country is now looking for partners to help it towards its goals. It's a lot of money when taking into consideration Niue's GDP in 2009 was approximately just USD \$1.55 million.

“You always set yourself a target and try and achieve it; not everything is achievable or a hundred



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percent but if we can at least fifty percent it will be, that will be a great achievement,” said the nation’s minister for infrastructure, Dalton Tagelagi.

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