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Schreurs Joins AusNet Services to Save Money and Energy on Hot Days

Premium fresh produce producer Schreurs and Sons in Clyde North has joined a group of leading businesses working with regional Victorian electricity distributor AusNet Services to save money, and keep community power bills down.

Schreurs and Sons has been producing top quality celery, leeks, spinach, rocket, and other salads on their farmlands in Twyford Road Clyde since 1980.

Schreurs is the latest electricity consumer to join AusNet Services' "Network Support" Demand Response program, under which it has agreed to cut its energy consumption during periods of peak demand for electricity, to reduce the load on the electricity network.

The challenge of supplying reliable power to customers during peak demand times is a big contributor to rising electricity bills. Upgrading the network to manage growth in peak demand is costly, especially as the extra capacity is only required on a few short occasions throughout the year.

Demand response makes sense in locations where peak demand issues are forecast to exist on a few occasions with limited durations. These occasions usually occur in summer before or after the holiday season, when businesses, schools and homes are all in full operation and using air conditioning.

AusNet Services gives businesses like Schreurs 24 hours advance notice when a peak demand day is predicted. The business reduces its consumption through a range of initiatives, including the possible use of a generator, for which it is paid by AusNet Services.

"With hot weather predicted in the coming days, we have the flexibility to enact our demand response program with business customers to reduce demand by up to 20MW in the coming days in specific locations," said John Theunissen, AusNet Services' Network Modernisation Manager.

"This approach not only reduces the risk of outages on hot days, it means AusNet Services can delay or defer investment in the network to increase capacity just to handle these few occasions each year. This modern approach helps keep power prices down for all customers and in particular the customer participating in the program.

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“Schreurs and Sons’ commitment to sustainability means they are a strong supporter of our demand management programs. They and more than 2,700 businesses of many kinds across our network in outer Melbourne, northern and eastern Victoria who are supplied by the AusNet Services’ network already enjoy the opportunity to reduce their power bills by responding to the Critical Peak Demand tariff. Now Schreurs have extended their savings by joining our Demand Response program as well,” he said.

The Demand Response program is one of a portfolio of Demand Management initiatives being implemented or developed by AusNet Services to further reduce expenditure on the electricity network. Other initiatives include embedded and mobile generation, critical peak demand tariffs, and network battery storage options.

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