10 YEARS AND 50 ISLANDS
- THE PACIFIC ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY JOURNEY

ACEF 1.3: Variable Renewable Energy and Battery Energy Storage

Chris Blanksby – 6 June 2024
Snapshot of island projects over the last 10 years
Transitioning from this...
To this…

We own. We operate. We consult.
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?
The rise of BESS

High penetration VRE has changed substantially
Demand side management is powerful

A few days with load constraint can pay for a second island

5 day battery autonomy

1 day battery autonomy

We own. We operate. We consult.
Avoiding the build-neglect cycle

- For larger, discrete projects, IPP / PPA is becoming commonplace
- But projects don’t attract the private sector are stuck in the old paradigm
  - Little change in approach over last 10 years
  - How can development funding provide PPA style support for small island projects?
Conclusions

Solar-BESS solutions expected to dominate in island locations

- Site limited options for wind and hydro or pumped hydro

Batteries are only just coming into their own and will increasingly be core utility infrastructure

- Last 15+ years, reliably grid forming, safe
- Require informed decisions about demand management options

System complexity frequently exceeds community capability, fuelling build-neglect cycle

- Paradigm shift necessary to get benefits of IPP style project for small communities
contacts

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