Connections

Summary of land rights request for information analysis

August 2024

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Background

The ESO launched the Request for Information (RFI) on 28 May 2024, closing on 28 June 2024. The RFI requested that developers who hold a signed contract with the ESO provide details of their ability to meet certain land rights criteria and planning status' in the context of the changes proposed by the Connections Reform project under CMP434 & CM095 and CMP435 & CM096.

Under the proposed code modifications, retaining existing connection dates or being in a position to accelerate that date will be dependent on meeting specified criteria such as having secured land rights. Having an early understanding of projects that are able to meet the criteria will enable us to understand the impact of the proposals and whether projects can or cannot be accelerated under a reformed queue.

Following closure of the RFI on 28 June, we have analysed the data and are pleased to share a high-level summary in this document.

Please note, we have not performed any validation on the responses received for this analysis.

High Level Data on Responses

This slide sets out a high-level summary on response numbers received and how responses are split out across the three categories (Transmission, Distribution with BEGA/BELLA and Distribution). This also shows the response rate against the total number of connectees in the queue.

Number of responses	Split of Responses	Response Rate by project count
2576 responses	**Distribution = 1337** **Distribution with BEGA / BELLA = 338** **Transmission = 901**	**Distribution = 30%** **Transmission = 60%**

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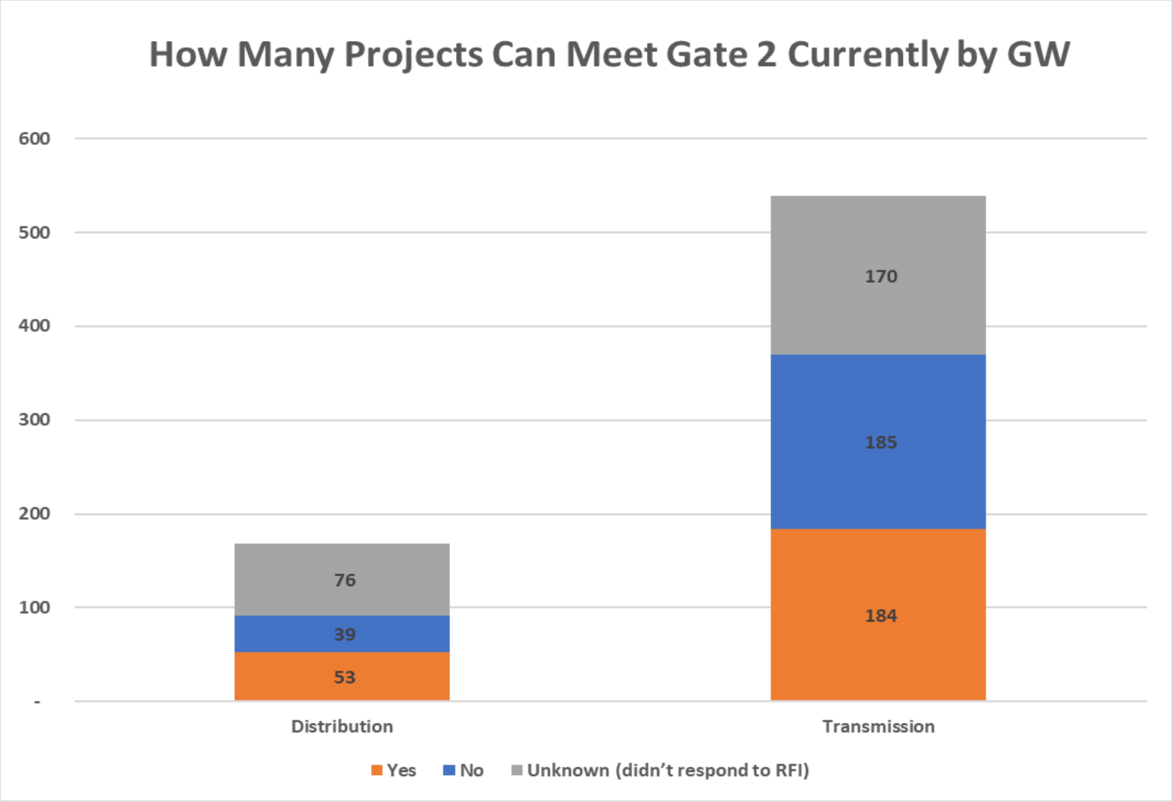
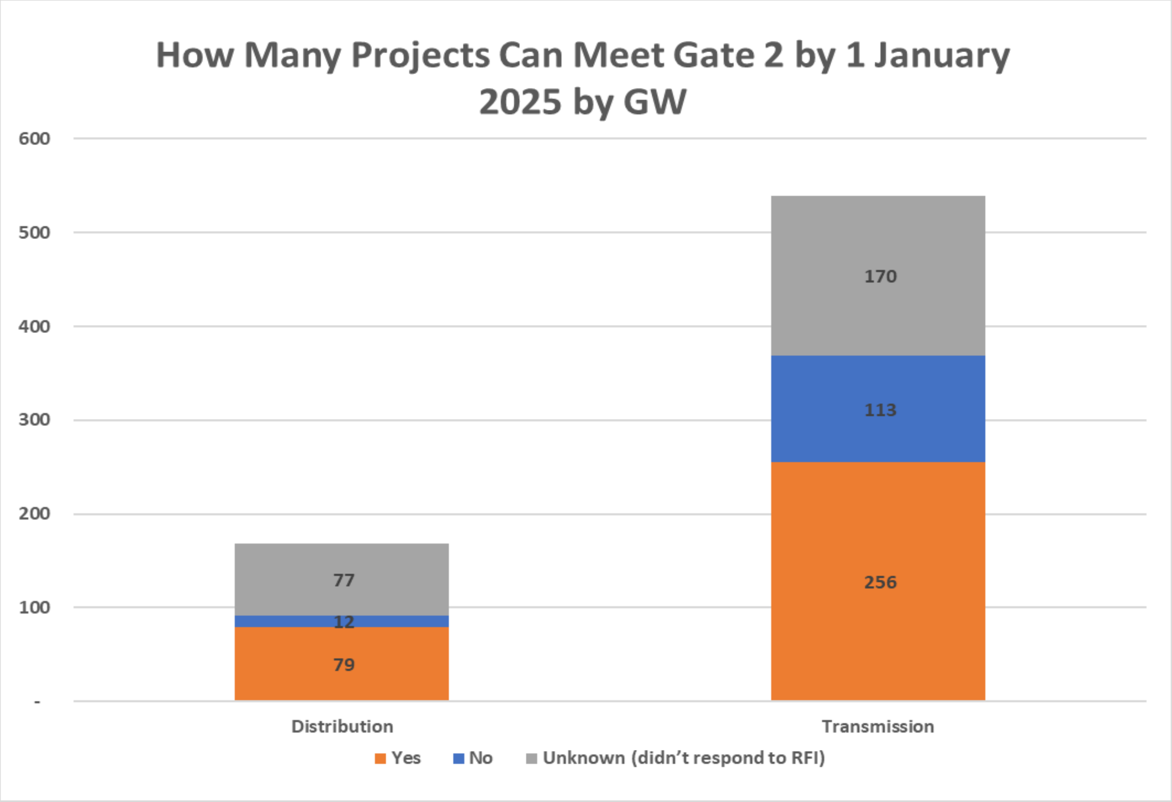
Projects That Can Meet Gate 2



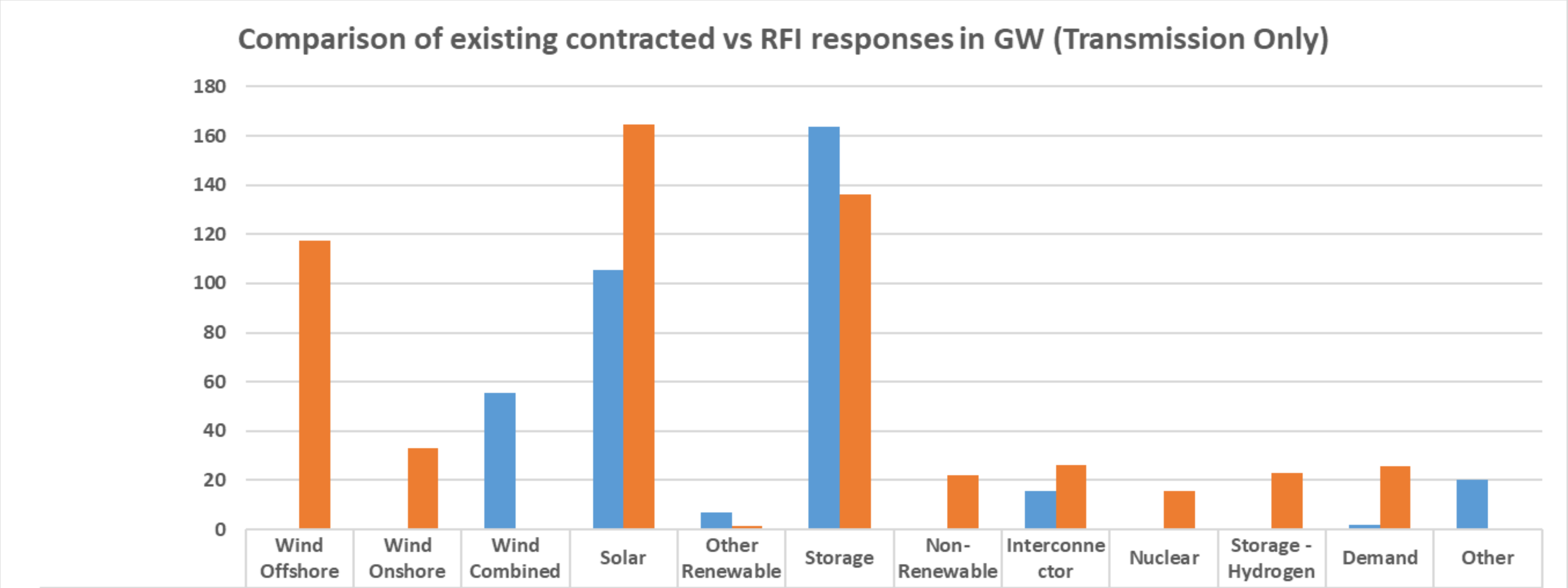
Graph 1



Graph 2

- Firstly we looked at the responses that said they could meet Gate 2 criteria now and by 1 January 2025. We also included the figures for those that had not responded. For clarification, the RFI allowed projects to self-report their ability and this has not been independently verified.
- Graph 1 shows that **currently**, at **Transmission** it is suggested that **184.2GW (34%) could meet Gate 2** and for **Distribution** this could be **53GW (31%)**. However, the **ability to meet the criteria is unknown** for **170GW** (31%) at Transmission and **76GW** (45%) for Distribution.
- Graph 2 shows that by **1st January 2025**, the ability to meet Gate 2 increases from **53GW** across **Distribution** in Graph 1 to **79GW (47%)** in Graph 2. For **Transmission**, the ability to meet Gate 2 increases from **184GW** in Graph 1 to **256GW** in Graph 2 **(47%)** of the total contracted queue.

Technology Split



	Wind Offshore	Wind Onshore	Wind Combined	Solar	Other Renewable	Storage	Non-Renewable	Interconnector	Nuclear	Storage - Hydrogen	Demand	Other
RFI Response	0	0	56	105	7	164	0	15	0	0	2	20
Existing Contracted	117	33	0	165	1	136	22	26	16	23	26	0

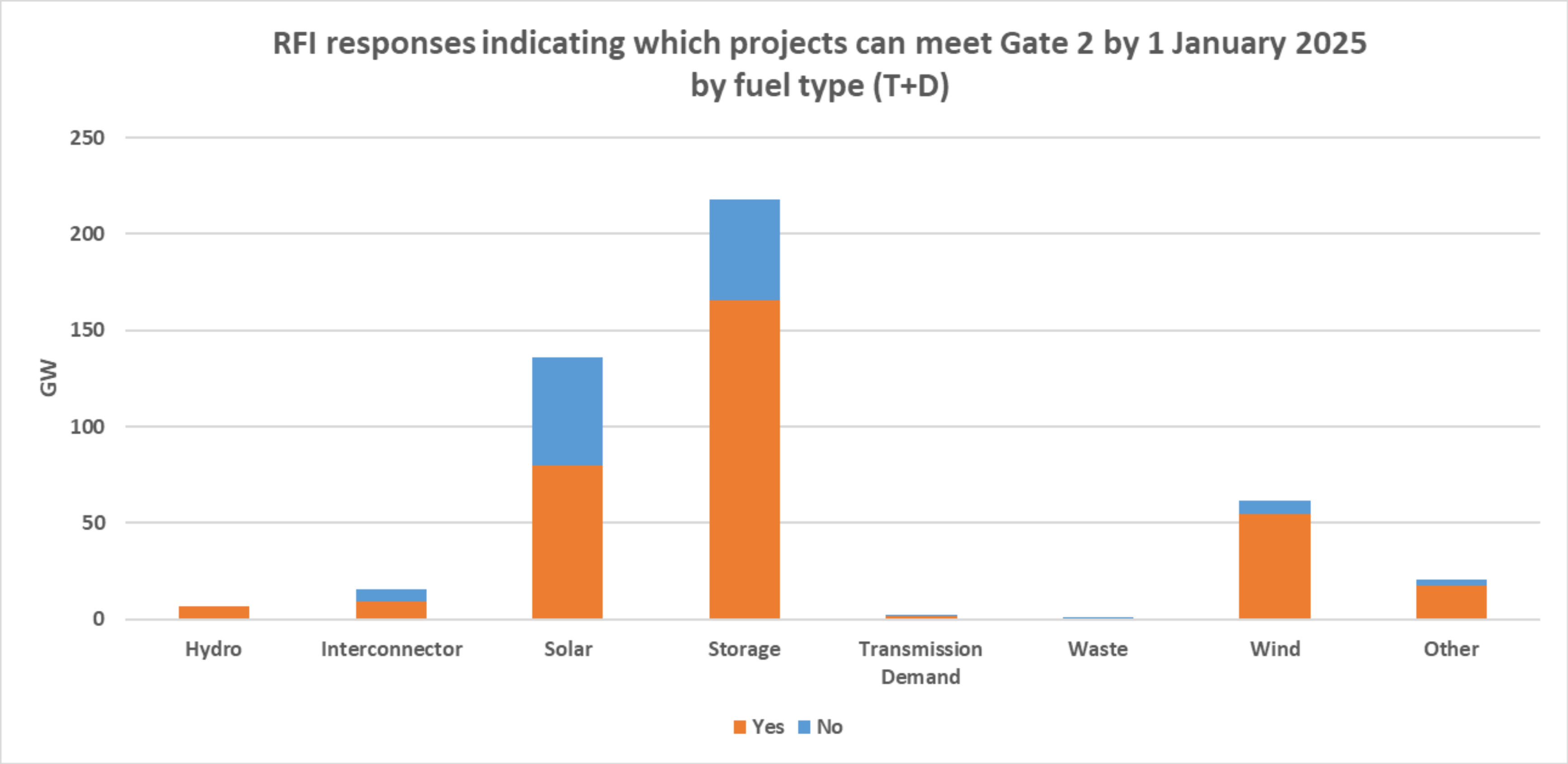
Graph 3

- This analysis looks at split across technology, this Graph looks at the comparison of the contractual position against the Transmission RFI responses.

- Graph 3 shows that the **most responses were received from Storage and Solar developers**. This aligns with our knowledge that Solar and Storage developers make up the majority of the queue, although we did receive more responses from Storage developers than currently contracted. This misalignment may be due to how the data was captured in the RFI, as participants were able to add multiple technology types.

- To note: the comparison between the technology types of the known contracted position vs RFI responses uses comparison data from our June Databook and is based on the accepted offers from the queue excluding connected parties and uses only Transmission data. Therefore, this graph only includes Transmission data from the RFI. Also, the RFI did not differentiate between Onshore and Offshore Wind, so a combined Wind criteria was added to cover both.

Technology Split continued

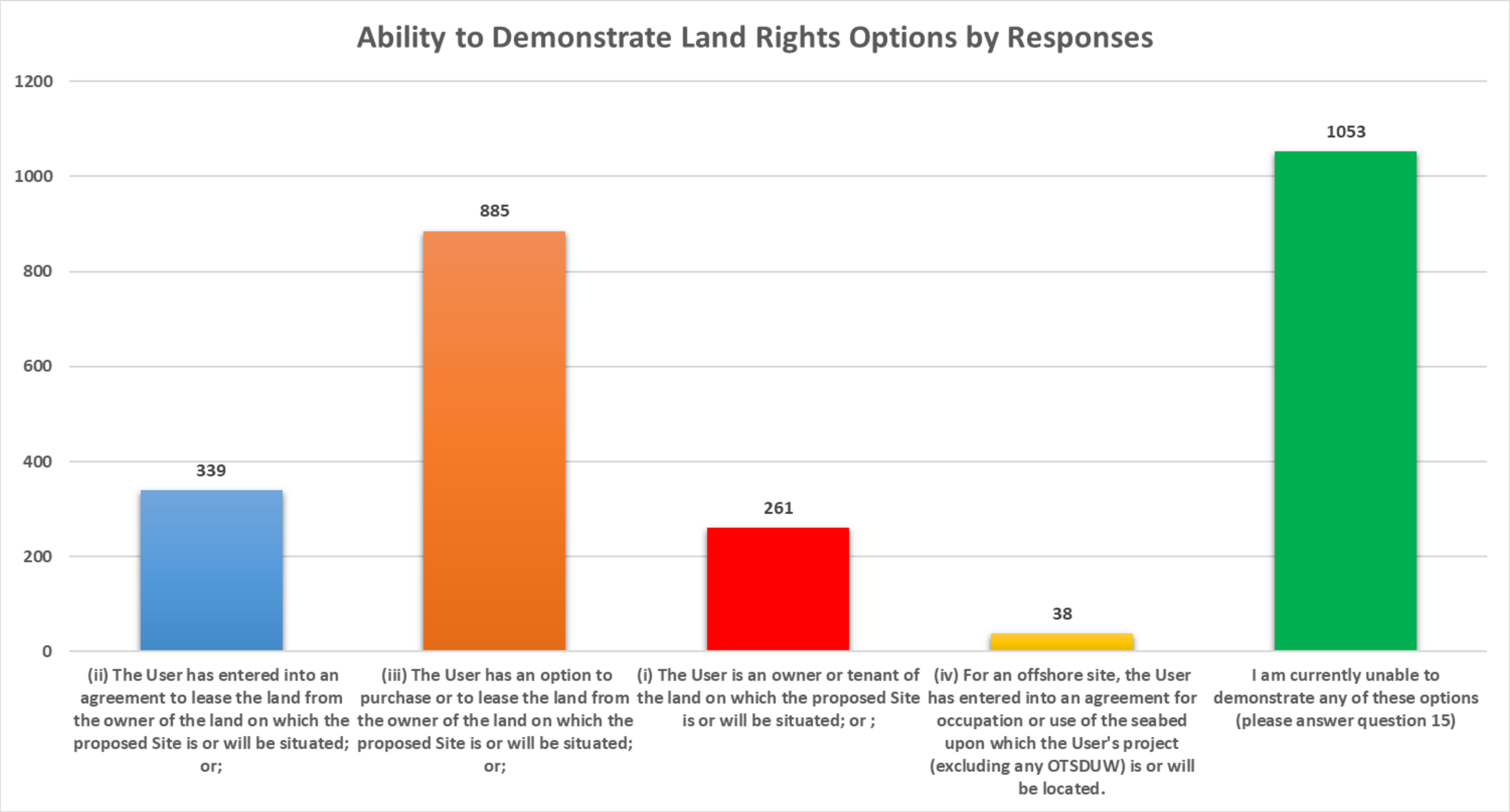


Graph 4

- Following on from Graph 3, Graph 4 shows the split by technology of projects that have stated they could meet Gate 2 by 1 January 2025.

- This shows that the **highest proportion of responses came from Solar and Storage developers**, which accounts to a combined **353.9GW** total. Of that 353.9GW, over **245GW** of Solar and Storage stated that they **could meet Gate 2 criteria by 1 January 202**5. As previously noted, due to the nature of how responses were recorded in the RFI there may be some over/under.

Ability to Demonstrate Land Right Options



Graph 5

- Graph 5 sets out the number of responses across both Transmission and Distribution (including those with BEGA/BELLAs) the split of those who, as of today, would be **able to demonstrate their Land Rights options**. Of the **2576** response, **236GW (59.1%)** of respondents advised that they **would be able to** demonstrate an option today.

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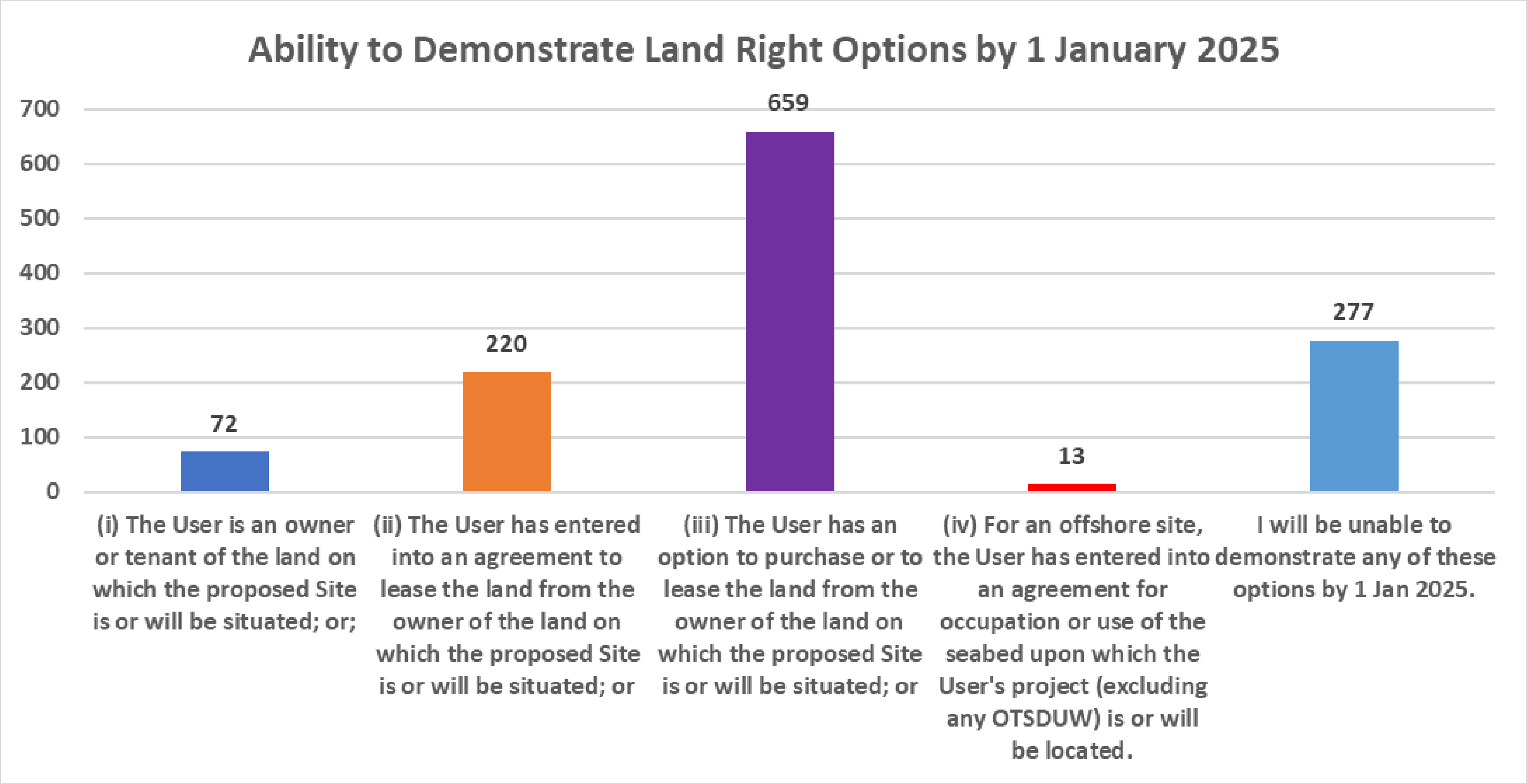
Ability to Demonstrate Land Right Options Continued



Graph 6

- Graph 6 shows the ability of respondents to **meet the Land Rights options by 1 January 2025**. Of the **1241 responses** to this question, **78% (359GW)** advised that they **would be able** to demonstrate an option by 1 January 2025 with **22%** of respondents advising that they would be **unable to demonstrate** any of the Land Right options by 1 January 2025.

  To note, there is likely to be some double counting in these figures, therefore, the 22% may be an underestimation.

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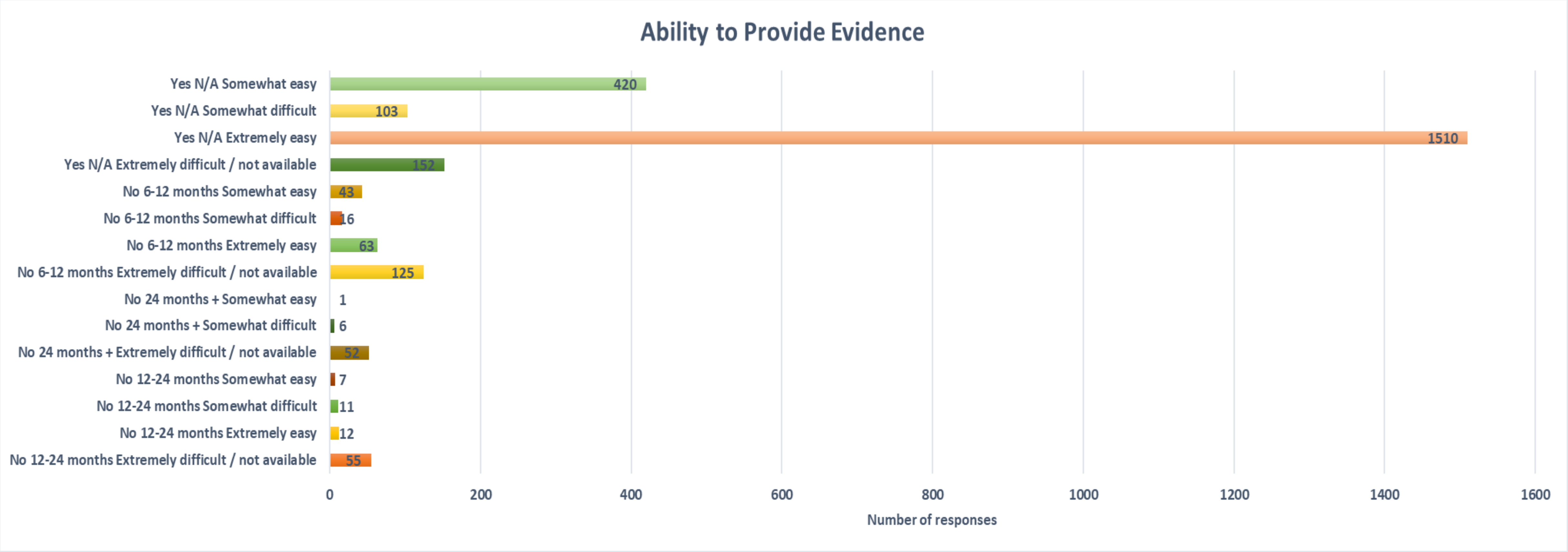
Ability to Provide Evidence



Graph 7

- Graph 7 sets out the ease of parties to provide evidence, should we request it today.
- Confidence was high for those who said that they could provide evidence, with **1510** responses to say that it would be extremely easy to provide evidence of land rights.
- However, a number of parties made it clear that they would not be able to provide this evidence across all categories, including those who had said that they could demonstrate an option (**152** responses).

Conclusion & Next Steps

Whilst a respectable number of responses were received for the RFI, there were still a significant number of parties across both Transmission and Distribution that did not respond.

Despite this, the responses received in the RFI are largely in line with the assumptions we made as part of the rationale for Connections Reform, that the changes proposed have the potential to halve the size of the queue.

The next steps will include further analysis of the data over the summer across ourselves, Transmission Owners (TOs) and Distribution Network Operators (DNOs). Findings will be published in due course.

Thank you for reading our summary of land rights request for information analysis.

For further information, please contact:

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