



PUMPED-UP WALPOLE - ENERGY STORAGE  
Challenges for Grid Connection and Power Quality

DINGO FLATS ROAD  
WALPOLE

EESA and Engineers Australia - SEPTEMBER 2023



*project is supported by*

Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**

**CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE FUND**

# RATIONALE

Q1 - WHAT is ELECTRICITY MARKET - 30 YEARS IN FUTURE?

A - Mix of mainly intermittent generation plus:

- smart grids & DSM (rational economics, **may dominate**, takes time)
- distributed energy & storage (**discretionary** and mostly sentiment)
- bulk storage 1 to **20 hours** (rational economics)
- fully digital

Q2 - HOW to DELIVER NOW?

A - Economic bulk storage to **20 hours**:

- Eliminate constraints (100m elevation, farm dams, **unlimited locations**)
- Incremental like wind turbines and PV, not niche
- Economic = storage \$ + PV/wind + network < black power \$ + network
- Template for streamlined grid connection
- Futureproof, fast to deploy and scalable

BACKGROUND

- Triggered by NEM case
- Energy markets are in transition - **mixed signals**
- Accelerate transition

DEMONSTRATE at WALPOLE

then:

- Enable mass production
- Streamline operation
- Systematic deployment
- Demand-driven rollout



## 1. Pumped-Up Walpole

- Functions
- Arrangement

## 2. Challenges and solutions

- Power quality
- Wide area networking
- Resilience & flexibility
- Capital efficiency

## 3. Questions



**125 kilometre** distribution line through karri forests, storms and bushfires

Western Power and PRD joint **renewable microgrid** project will significantly improve power **reliability for Walpole**

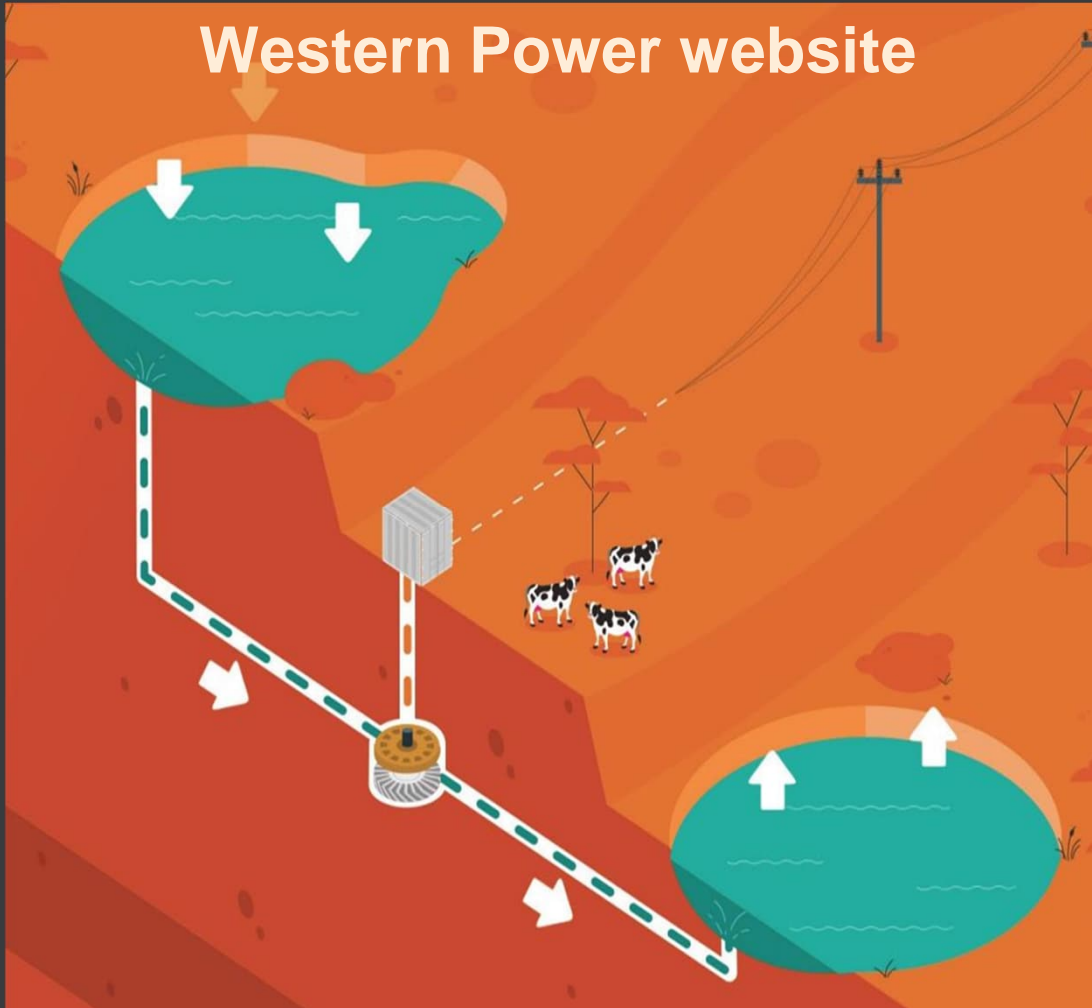


Awarded \$2 million as part of the WA Government's Clean Energy Future Fund

“This project, despite being on a **smaller scale**, will be used as a **template** for other areas in the State, and possibly nationally and internationally.”

Bill Johnston - WA Minister for Energy

## Western Power website



## WALPOLE FUNCTIONS

- Network Control Services - **reliability**
- Assigned Reserve Capacity
- WEM wholesale energy trading
- Embedded solar PV
- Retail bulk energy storage **service**

## OTHER CAPABILITIES

- Network Control Services voltage support, peak lopping and demand management
- **EV** supercharging hub
- Ancillary Services

## LONG-TERM STORAGE

- 1.5MW
- 20 hours hydro capacity

## PATENTED SYSTEM

- Microgrid enabled (grid forming) - Walpole average demand is 400kW
- Fully inverter connected
- 15 min integrated battery
- Sophisticated automation
- Instant and bumpless transitions





Two farm dams, 170ML and 2ha each  
85m elevation difference  
30MWh storage capacity  
1.5MW of floating PV



800m buried penstock  
GRP pipe  
1000mm average dia  
2500 litres per second  
9 km/h

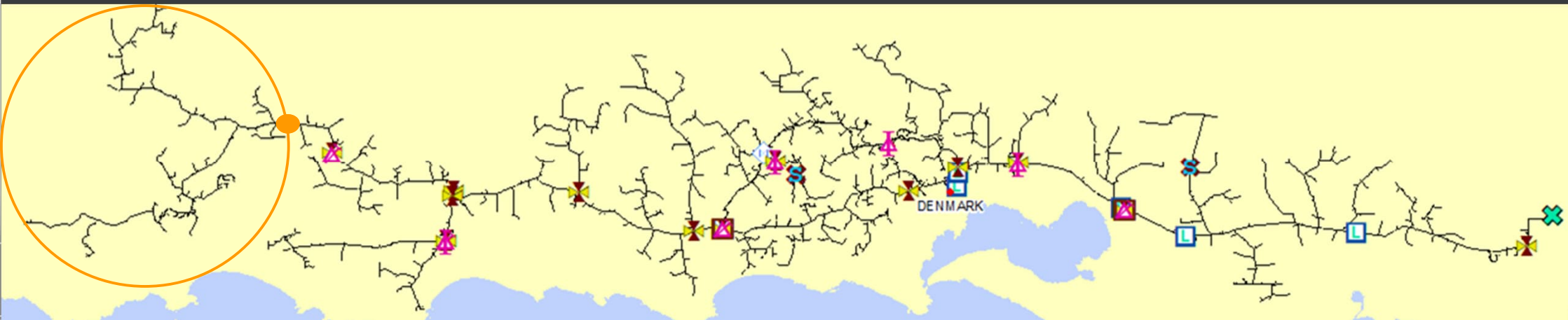


## Connected 14km NE of Walpole

- 22kV distribution connection
- Visual simplicity by choice
- Standard regulated connection
  - Technical rules
  - Compliance

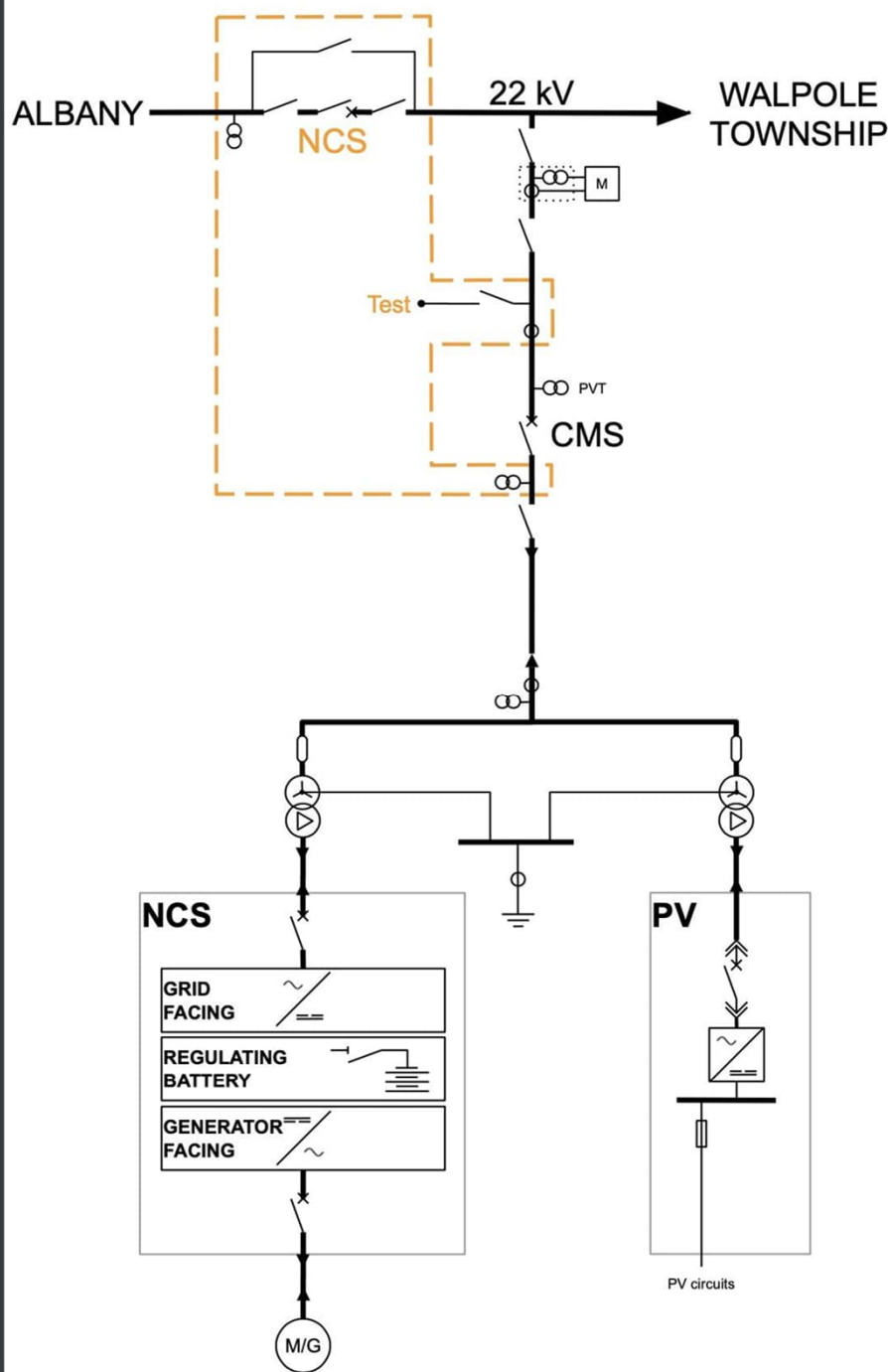
## Edge of grid

- 125 km line, forests, SWER spurs
- 5 x voltage regulators
- Low fault currents:
  - 3 phase is 149 amps at 22kV
  - L-G is **119** amps
  - L-L is 74 amps





## CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS



## NETWORK CONTROL SERVICES

- Developed with **Western Power**
- Standby power to township:
  - Bumpless load acceptance (without breaking waveform)
  - **125 millisecond** fault clearing
  - Long duration microgrid capable
  - **Bumpless** resynchronising and power transfer
  - **Black-start** capable
  - Interface with WP
- **Discrete** from connection systems
  - NCS protection, power and sensing
  - Integrated battery **1200kW for 15 min**
  - Minimum NCS storage reserve

## POWER QUALITY:

- Local voltage stability

- Active VAR compensation
- Passive VAR compensation (backup)
- Conditional constraints mapping

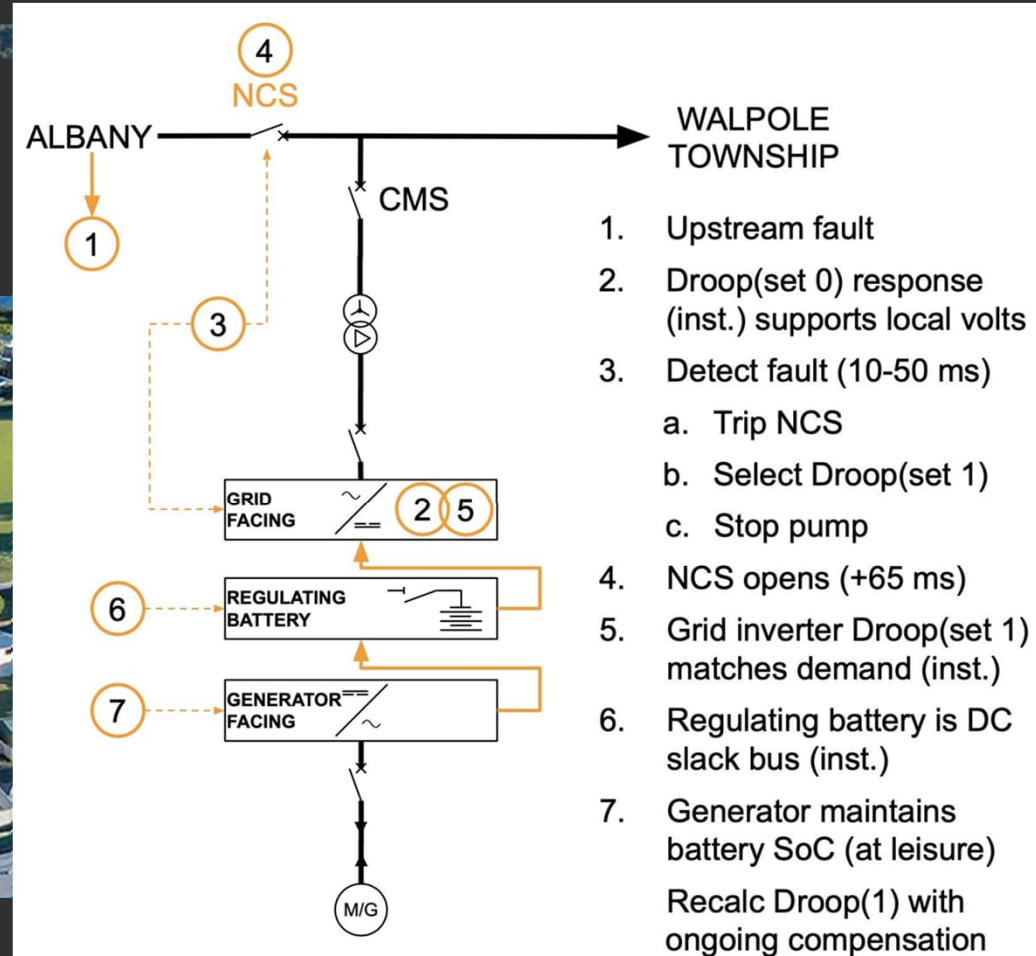
- Maximise embedded PV

- Bi-directional governing
- PV runback



- Bumpless transition
- Stable microgrid

- Regulating battery
- Compositional control architecture
- Pro-active governing and control
- Critical fault clearing time

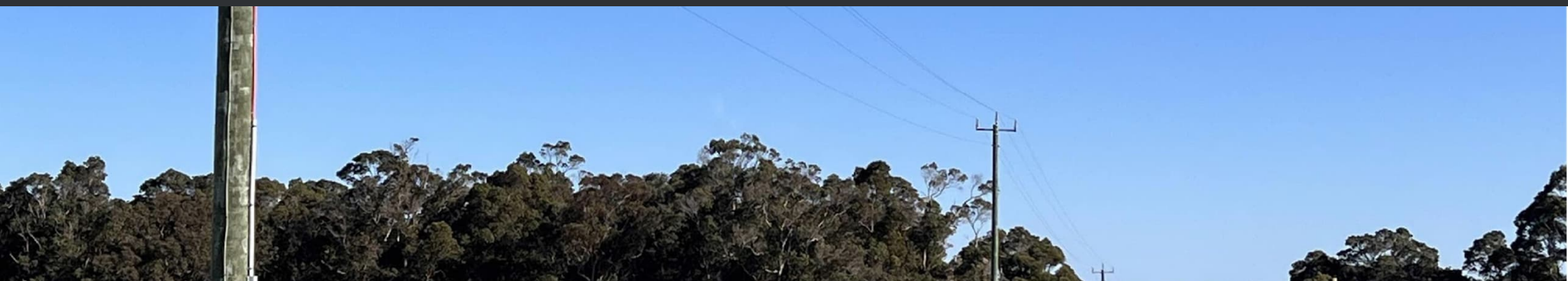


## WIDE AREA NETWORKING

- Anti-islanding ➤ Synchrophasor to Albany



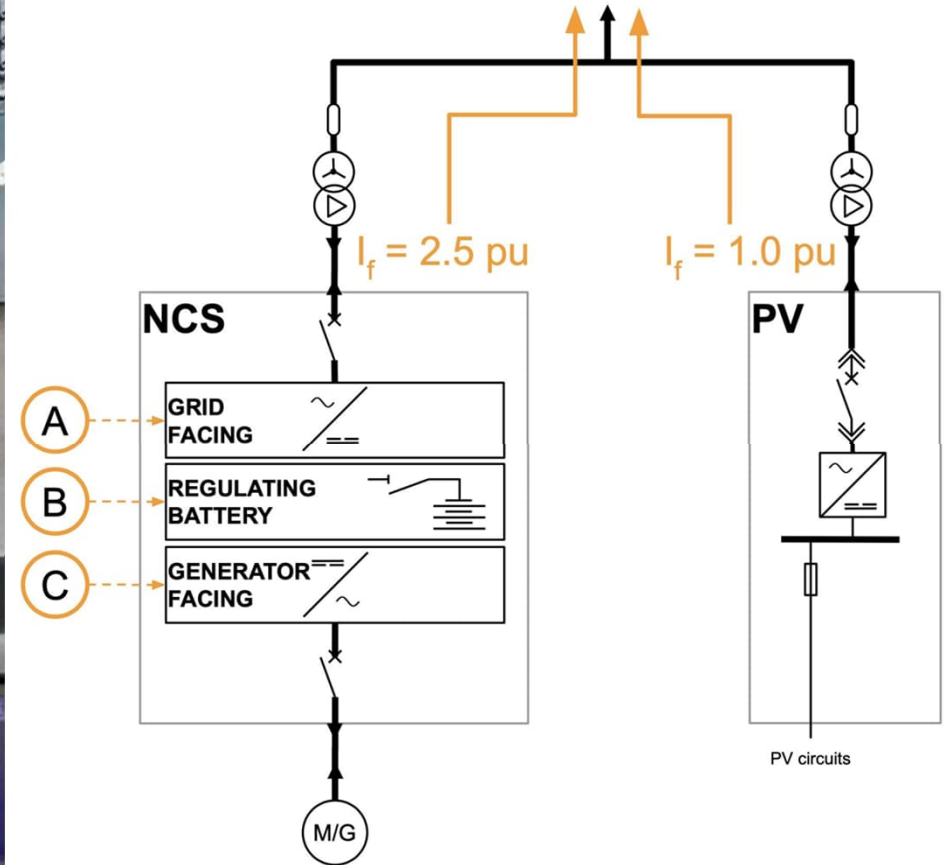
- Load sharing ➤ Compensated droop
- Multiple locations



- Remote synchronising ➤ Local NCS relay(s) - can be multiple
- Time insensitive logic
- Satellite clock synchronising

## RESILIENCE & FLEXIBILITY:

- Existing protection selectivity
  - 3.25 pu fault current contribution
  - Microgrid only



- Failsafe
  - Compositional control architecture
  - Eliminate control risk
  - Backup protection

# CAPITAL EFFICIENCY

Capital efficiency  
before operating efficiency:

Fixed revenue > fixed costs

Variable revenue > variable costs

All technologies  
must compete

Some of our efficiencies are:

1. Mass producible components, deployable **at scale**
2. Distribution connected, **latent** infrastructure capacity
3. 100% energy efficient service - 65% operating cycle efficiency, plus 35% priming power solar PV
4. **Fixed** revenue optimised = NCS services, AEMO capacity market, green certificates, fixed retail services
5. Variable revenue is **zero** (or negative) marginal cost

<b>FUNCTIONS</b>	<b>Us</b>	BTM BESS	Community BESS	Utility BESS	Utility PHES	Smart Grids
Bumpless/instant (local)	✓	✓	✓			✓
100ms (local)	✓	✓	✓			✓
100ms (grid-wide)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
1-5 sec	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1 hr	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5-7 hr	✓	✓			✓	✓
Weeks	✓				✓	



QUESTIONS ARE WELCOME