

SPEN DSO EVENT – TRANSCRIPT

DSO changes how we do things. Its fundamental core of that is collaboration.

So when I think of a DSO, I guess I always think about it as an opportunity to engage more widely with our community, with our stakeholders, and just really get to understand what it is that they need from us.

It's a really exciting opportunity for us to engage with all stakeholders.

They want to engage with the networks, businesses and understanding what distribution system operator can do for them.

As a stakeholder, it's really great to hear what's been progressed since last year.

There's a lot more work to be done with DSO if you're going to make it interactive, to make it smart, make it digital.

I think one of the challenges at the moment is just working out what our role can be, how we can participate, and getting access to the data that will allow us to make informed decisions about what services we can offer.

If you're planning to have a community that's self-sufficient in energy, then the only way that you can make that cost effective is by having access to the grid to export your access of power. Just like any business, you need to balance the books.

We have to make investments. We have to plan those investments out to 2050. That is a massive opportunity so that we can deliver the infrastructure in the right place in the right time.

So therefore it's really important that we engage with our stakeholders.

It's been really helpful to meet the wider team. See the current state of DSO. And it's given us confidence. This is definitely an area for us to continue getting resource into.

It's about not only embracing new technology, new innovation, it's also about embracing that change within the organisation.

So we can't all do it in isolation. We need to work together. We need to learn from each other. We need to help navigate through all the barriers, come up with solutions, and you can't do that individually.

DSO really changes how we approach doing things. It's about moving our network and our operations to be more dynamic, to make the network smarter.

We've already seen some great benefits. During Storm Darragh, they managed to get up to 15,000 customers back on earlier by working with one of our flexibility partners.

Ultimately, our role here is to serve our communities, our customers, our stakeholders, and the more effectively we can do that, the better.