

## Public Statement from Commodore Australia

In light of recent discussions and coverage regarding our participation in the Off-Grid Living Festival, we at Commodore Australia wish to address the concerns raised about the use of a backup diesel generator during the event, to supplement our Power Skid Hybrid Off-Grid Solar System. Every off grid system is designed for a load which includes the inverter size determining how much load can be drawn at any one time, the battery bank size determines how long this load can be sustained, and the Solar size determines the speed of power replenishment for the batteries.

1. **System Design and Unforeseen Demands** : Our Commodore off-grid power system that was designed to power the festival's energy needs came up against two uncontrollable variables, our system could have coped without the requirement of the generator if only one of these two variables played out. The first was that the amount of power the vendors were pulling from the system was double of what was specified for the system, which would have been ok except the second uncontrollable variable in that it was raining on the Saturday. On the Sunday when the Sun was out the system coped just fine without the generator running, but of course there are no cameras around to capture this because that's not news worthy when something works well. Despite meticulous planning, unexpected additional demands from late-entry food vendors required us to rely temporarily on our backup generator to ensure uninterrupted service. **It was a matter of either use the systems full capacity with diesel generator supporting the battery system, or see small businesses go without power.**
2. **Commitment to the Supporting The Festival and Sustainability**: Commodore provided power for 11 food vendors at no cost, our team dedicated over \$15,000 in resources to support the festival's mission of promoting sustainable living. Our efforts ensured that the festival could run smoothly, offering a platform for education and community engagement around off-grid living
3. **Generator Use**: The generator's operation beyond its capacity was a testament to its reliability under pressure, ensuring that all festival participants had the power they needed. We're proud of how our systems performed, and by Sunday, we were able to run entirely on solar and battery storage, a significant achievement given the circumstances.

While open dialogue is what makes Australia so great, this case has underpinned the importance of understanding the full circumstances of a situation, because as of now, the Off-Grid Living Festival which provides so much value, education and help to thousands of Australian's is being damaged, in their efforts to help other small businesses, who needed both Commodore Australia's and the Off-Grid Living Festival's help in unforeseen circumstances. While both Topher Field & Sky News, were unaware of the technical specifications and trade-off at hand with the introduction of further loads from food vendors.

And for those interested in the normal operation of an off-grid solar system, a generator backup with limited run time each year is necessary for an economical sweet spot, which saves customers tens of thousands of dollars in extra equipment with a generator running 70-100 hours per year. Festivals with extremely high short-term usage with minimal space for solar are a challenge, particularly with unforeseen additional loads/appliances, however the Off-Grid Living Festival still remains as one of Australia's most sustainable festivals, whereby the generator in Commodore's Power Skid only ran for less than 20% of the operation Sunday. Not to mention only 4 x red waste bins were filled over the course of 300 exhibitors and 10,000 attendees.

And most importantly, thank you to everyone involved in the festival, especially to Kate and Ralph for their incredible work, and to all attendees and exhibitors for fostering a community dedicated to off-grid living.

For further discussion or inquiries, please reach out to me directly at [matthewm@commodoreaustralia.com.au](mailto:matthewm@commodoreaustralia.com.au).