

Communities that have received solar PV have repeatedly reported that the upgrades projects have had extremely positive impacts on both individual households and the wider community. Video interviews and testimonials – available at the following links: [Link 1](#) and [Link 2](#).

### **Warren, Tweed Byron LALC**

Warren is a resident of Tweed Byron LALC and lives with his wife and seven children. Warren outlined the financial strain that having such a large family can cause, with the electricity bills 'out of control'. Energy bills is the most significant stress among other financial pressures, such as rent, grocery bills and medical expenses.



Warren's family received solar PV in June 2019. He explained how his wife excitedly called him over when they received their new energy bill and said that they were laughing – they could enjoy the moment, being able to put money away for 'other more important things'. The solar PV has increased Warren's financial independence and he says that his family has benefited every month since it was installed.

### **Gale, St George Community Housing**



Gale, an elderly resident of St George Community Housing, explained that prior to receiving solar PV she did not feel in control of her energy bills. When she heard that energy prices were to increase, Gale stopped using her power as much as possible and wouldn't even use a heater when her home was cold during winter.

After receiving solar PV Gale reported that she felt 'liberated and set free' and felt 'human again'. She was also 'so surprised' to find that for the first time her energy bill was in credit. The project has had a positive impact on Gale's social and financial wellbeing – she isn't afraid to use electricity anymore and is now cooking with her oven again.

### **Leweena, Tweed Byron LALC**

Leweena is the CEO of Tweed Byron LALC and explained that members of her community struggle financially. They often have to decide whether to use their money to pay the power bill, the rent, or to put petrol in the car to get to work. Leweena also outlined how fulfilling cultural responsibilities can put financial pressure on families, with multiple families arriving and staying in a single home during Sorry Business, which can leave families with a large power bill.



Leweena has noticed that working 'hand in hand, and side by side' with the NSW Government to deliver the project has produced many positive community impacts. She explained that community members feel more empowered and are now able to effectively manage their energy use, adding that her mother has become the 'solar police' and instructs other community members to improve their bill savings. Leweena also said that the project has opened communication channels in her community, with members now coming forward for support when they need help rather than 'suffering in silence'. Leweena's community is now looking forward to their next energy bill – 'that's never happened before!'