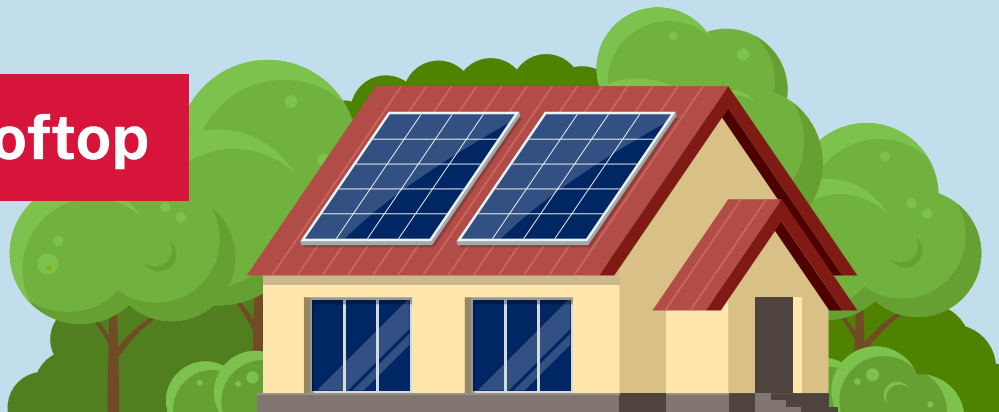


Supporting Rooftop

Solar in NSW



Energy consumers in NSW are embracing solar in record numbers to save money and cut emissions. Around 1 million NSW households and small businesses already have rooftop solar systems. The NSW Government has committed \$290 million through the Consumer Energy Strategy to ensure everyone can benefit from energy resources like rooftop solar and batteries.

Find out more about the benefits of rooftop solar and the important protections that the NSW Government and your distribution network are introducing to support a renewable energy future and keep the grid stable and reliable for everyone.



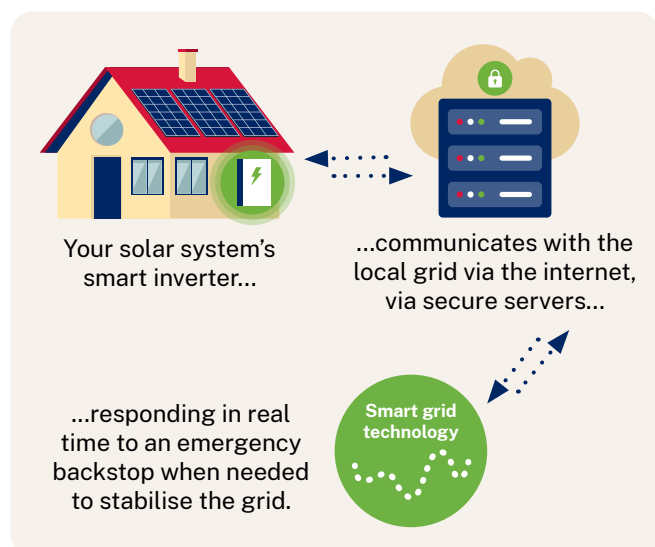
Supporting solar in the grid

Rooftop solar exports create a two-way flow of electricity on the grid. Because the grid was originally designed for one-way energy flow, new ways of managing energy are needed to support more rooftop solar in the grid.

A stable, reliable grid needs a good balance between the amount of energy flowing into it and the amount of energy being drawn out of it.

That's why the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), NSW Government and NSW distribution networks are introducing new protections and services to improve the way we manage energy flows on NSW networks.

These changes will reduce pressure on the electricity system that could otherwise lead to power outages or disconnections of rooftop solar. By improving how the grid handles solar exports, more rooftop solar can be safely connected to the grid, providing more reliable, clean power for everyone.



The Emergency Backstop Mechanism

When rooftop solar systems generate a lot of energy but demand on the grid is low, such as on mild, sunny weekends, this can create an imbalance in the electricity network. If not managed properly, this imbalance can affect the reliability of the power supply for consumers.

AEMO requires each state to introduce an 'Emergency Backstop Mechanism'. This mechanism gives distribution networks the ability to quickly and temporarily reduce the output of rooftop solar systems when instructed by AEMO. An Emergency Backstop Mechanism has already been introduced in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.



AEMO will activate the emergency backstop after all other measures to balance the grid have been exhausted. It is expected to be used rarely, typically during unusual low-demand periods such as public holidays or mild, sunny weekends.

The Emergency Backstop Mechanism is designed to prevent larger outages that could result in rooftop solar systems being switched off more frequently or for longer periods.

Find out more:

[AEMO](#)

[NSW Emergency Backstop Mechanism](#)



Flexible export limits

Distribution networks have traditionally maintained local grid stability, where there are constraints, by applying a low, fixed export limit to solar customers. To address this, the NSW Government is requiring NSW distribution networks to begin offering flexible export limits.

As more solar energy connects into the network, flexible export limits will allow you to continue sending your excess solar energy safely into the grid when the network can accommodate it. It will not affect how, when, or how much of your own solar energy you consume to power your own home or business.



Two-way pricing for solar

Australia is moving to a system called two-way pricing that reflects the costs of managing high levels of solar exports on the grid.

Customers with two-way pricing included in their retail energy plan receive a slightly lower feed-in tariff for solar exports that exceed a threshold in the middle of the day. But you also receive a bonus feed-in tariff as a reward for any solar and battery exports to the grid in the afternoon/evening when demand for energy is high.

Two-way pricing encourages solar customers to consume the energy you generate, or export later in the day when the grid needs it. Using your own solar energy gives you the best value from your rooftop.



Using more of the solar energy your system generates helps you save on electricity costs. It also reduces the chance of exceeding the export threshold in the middle of the day that attracts a lower feed-in tariff.

Find out more:

[Ausgrid Two way Pricing](#)



Maximise your solar savings

To get the best value from your solar and save on your bills:



Consume as much of your solar energy as you can during the day



Monitor your solar app to understand how much energy your rooftop generates



Use timers to power large appliances (e.g. washing machines, dishwashers) when solar output is high



Consider installing a battery to store your solar energy for use in the evenings



Review your energy plan, including peak and off-peak rates and feed-in tariffs, to make sure it suits your usage



Consuming the solar energy your rooftop generates gives you the best savings. Self-consume your free solar energy to maximise savings and export the excess solar you can't use back to the grid.

Find out more:

[NSW Government Home Solar Systems](#)
[Federal Government Switch to Solar](#)
[Ausgrid](#)

