

Safety Fact Sheet

End of the Solar Bonus Scheme

Date: 28.12.16

The NSW Solar Bonus Scheme (SBS) ended on 31 December 2016

Metering

Those customers with an existing GROSS meter will generally wish to move to NET metering after the SBS ends to maximise self-consumption of their solar generation, and only export excess energy to the grid. Even customers with an existing NET meter may wish to take up a retailer's offer to install a 'smart' meter that can be remotely read and provides more detailed energy use information.

In either situation, only use the services of either:

1. The authorised meter installer acting for your retailer of choice. **OR**
2. An Accredited Service Provider – Level 2 authorised under the Department of Industry accreditation scheme for meter service provision.

DO NOT attempt to alter the connections on your meter(s) yourself. All meters are 'sealed' with a traceable tag and breaking that seal is not only un-safe but also an offence under the Electricity Supply Act.

DO NOT attempt to dismantle or modify your solar system yourself. Solar panels produce dangerous DC voltages whenever they are exposed to sunlight - even when you have turned off all switches.



Adding Storage

Some customers will take the opportunity of the end of the SBS to install batteries – be that stationary batteries or an electric vehicle. In the case of stationary batteries only use a Clean Energy Council (CEC) installer accredited for battery storage – this is a different qualification to the more common PV solar installation qualification. In the case of adding circuitry for home EV charging use a licenced electrical contractor. In both situations, a change of metering may be appropriate, including the option for Controlled Load charging of your EV when solar energy is not sufficient.

DO NOT attempt to install batteries yourself or carry out unauthorised electrical works. Electrical work can only be safely completed by suitably qualified and licensed electricians who will submit to Essential Energy – and provide to you the customer - a Certificate of Compliance for Electrical Work (CCEW).

For more information

Essential Energy's Public Safety team is available to facilitate Electrical Awareness sessions and discuss any questions relating to electrical safety. For more information on electrical safety see the SAFETY section on the Essential Energy website **OR** call:

General enquiries: 13 23 91



Photos: A typical residential solar installation at Geurie NSW

Adding to or modifying your Solar System

Customers with an existing small solar system may wish to add capacity. Conversely, customers with a large system may wish to remove or relocate part of their system to another location to maximise self-consumption. In either instance, only use the services of a Clean Energy Council (CEC) accredited solar installer.