

Solar Sharer Offer

This fact sheet explains what the new Solar Sharer Offer is and how it will work.¹

Further details are also available in the 2026–27 default market offer (DMO) final determination (published 26 May 2026).

What is the Solar Sharer Offer?

The Solar Sharer Offer is an opt-in [standing offer](#) for electricity that is available to residential customers with smart meters in South East Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia (DMO regions) that includes a designated 3-hour free power period in the middle of the day.²

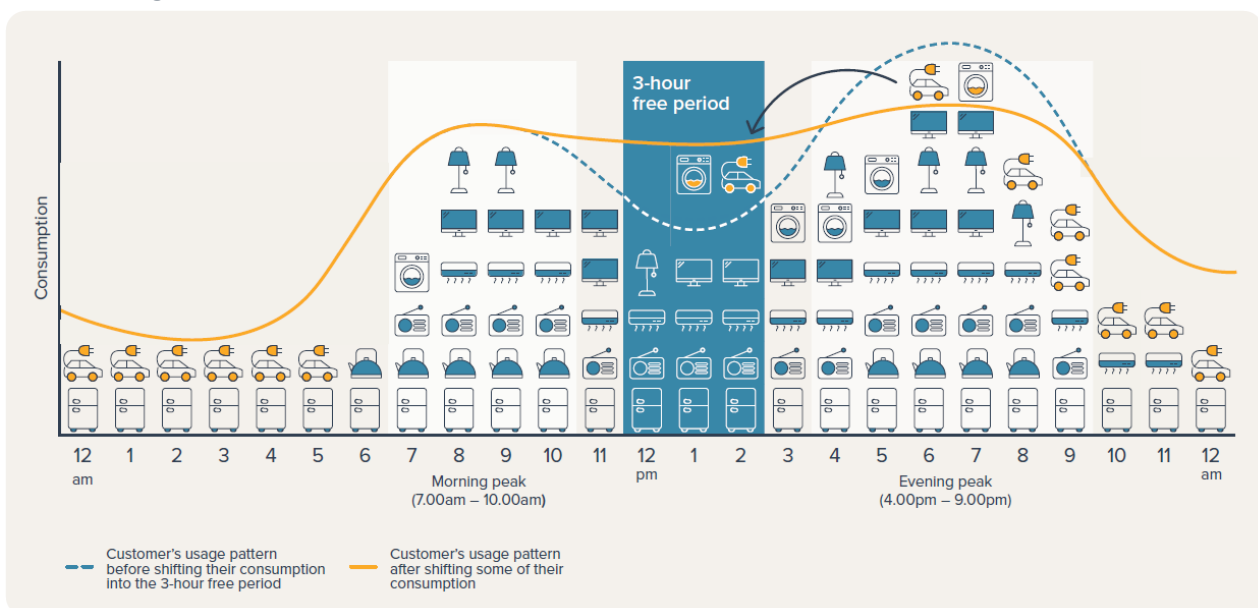
Aim of the Solar Sharer Offer

The aim of the Solar Sharer Offer is to enable households to benefit from Australia's abundant solar generation regardless of whether they have solar panels. It is best suited to customers who can shift some of their electricity consumption from peak usage periods into the free usage period.

Shifting consumption from peak periods to the free usage period smooths electricity demand and eases grid strain, improving system efficiency and lowering overall system costs. Customers who shift their consumption into the free period can benefit through lower electricity bills compared to if they had not shifted their usage, as depicted in Figure 1.

Customers looking to benefit from free electricity during the middle of the day may also seek out market offers with free usage periods similar to the Solar Sharer Offer.

Figure 1 Example of the change in consumption the Solar Sharer Offer is intended to encourage



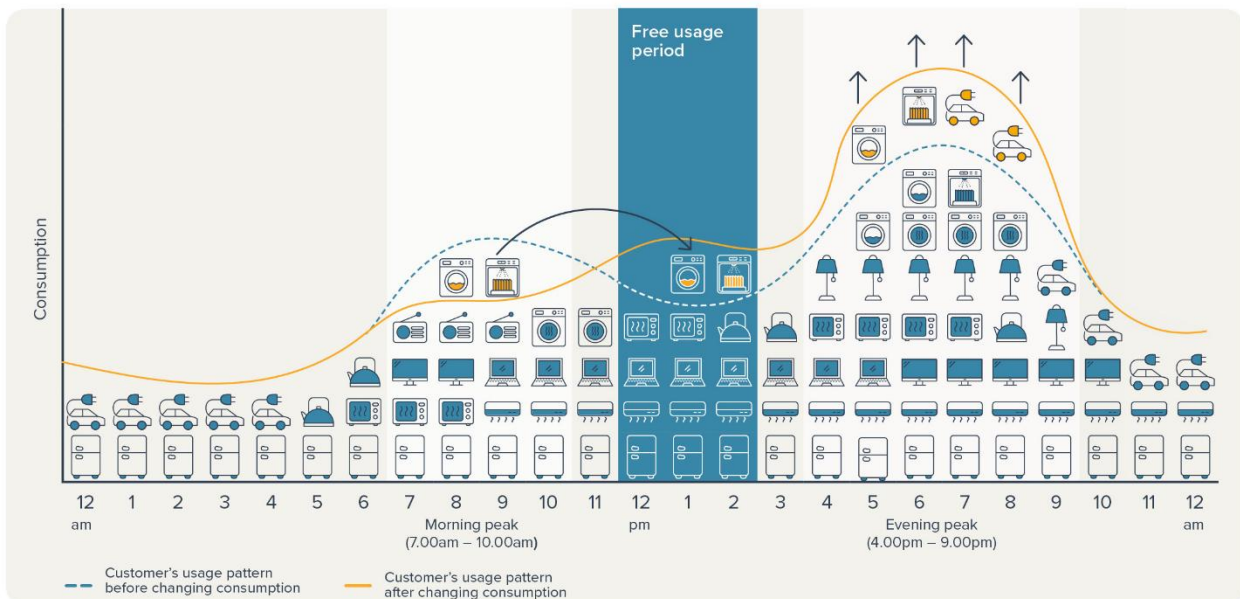
¹ The guidance in this factsheet does not constitute legal advice.

² The regulatory framework for the Solar Sharer Offer is established via the [Competition and Consumer \(Industry Code – Electricity Retail\) Amendment Regulations 2026](#) (the Regulations).

The Solar Sharer Offer is designed to deliver bill savings relative to the time of use DMO for customers with electricity consumption profiles similar to our modelled estimates.

Customers whose consumption patterns and usage amounts differ from our modelled estimates, or those who are on competitively priced market offers may not experience lower bills from transferring to the Solar Sharer Offer even if they change their behaviour. Figure 2 is an example of a customer that has shifted some usage into the free period and increased usage outside of it, potentially resulting in a higher overall bill.

Figure 2 Example of behaviour change that would not necessarily lead to lower bills for customers on the Solar Sharer Offer



The Solar Sharer Offer rules and framework

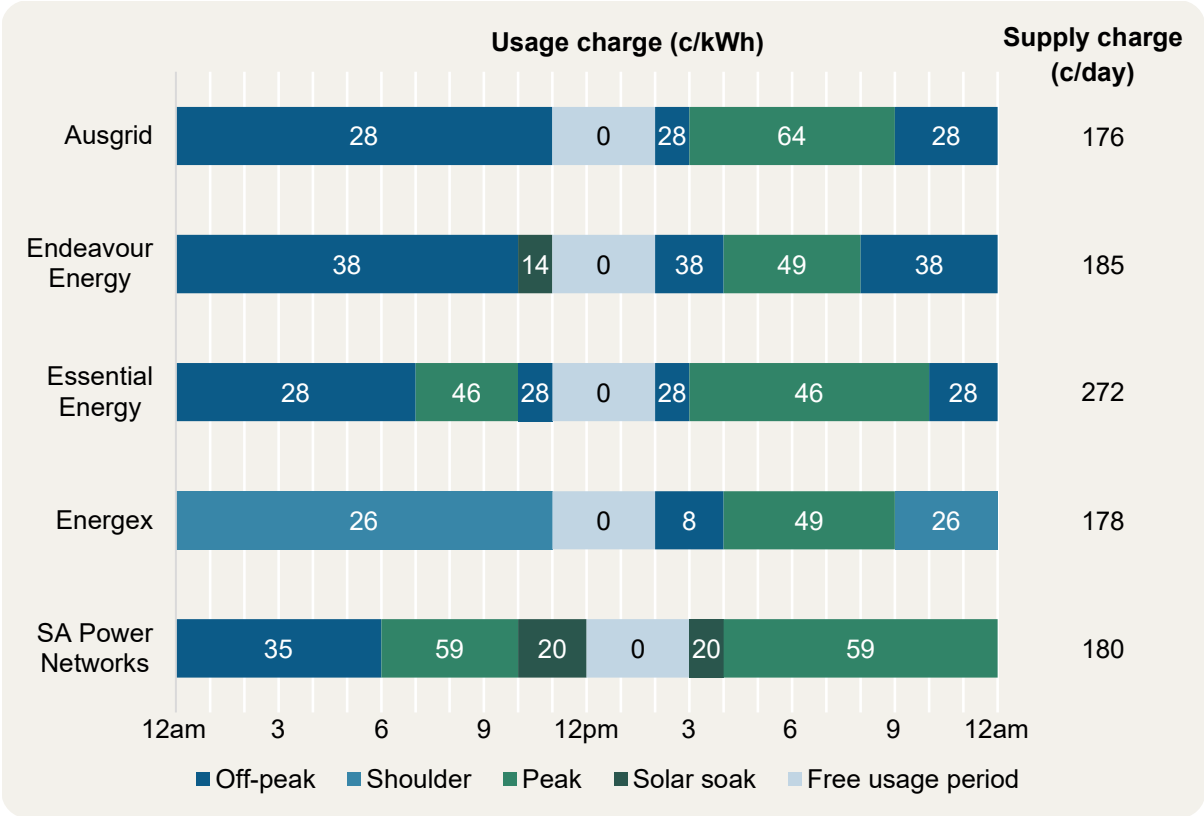
- Retailers who have more than 1,000 customers across DMO regions will need to make a Solar Sharer Offer.³ The Solar Sharer Offer is an opt-in tariff for all residential customers with smart meters.
- The Solar Sharer Offer is a 'regulated tariff' under the DMO regulatory framework and will have its own corresponding annual 'comparison price' that will serve as a benchmark for market offers like the Solar Sharer Offer.
- Retailers will only need to make a single Solar Sharer Offer for DMO 8 in each region, irrespective of what the applicable network tariffs are.
- There will be no changes to the current rules around network tariff reassignment. Currently, the default assignment for all customers in DMO regions is a time of use or demand tariff, with an optional reassignment process between time of use and demand tariffs, so retailers will not be restricted from reassigning Solar Sharer Offer customers to an underlying time of use network tariff. However, retailers will not be able to require that customers be assigned to a time of use network tariff in advance of opting into the Solar Sharer Offer.

³ Under the Regulations, retailers with 1,000 or fewer customers across all DMO regions are not required to offer a Solar Sharer Offer.

How the Solar Sharer Offer tariff is structured

- The 2026–27 DMO final determination provides the Solar Sharer Offer free usage periods as fixed year-round periods in local time, accounting for daylight savings and different time zones within some distribution regions.
- The free usage periods are 11am–2pm for NSW/SE Queensland regions and 12pm–3pm for South Australia. Times will not vary with daylight savings from a customer perspective. In other words:
 - During daylight savings, the free period for NSW regions will be 11am–2pm AEDT and SA will be 12pm–3pm ACDT.
 - Outside of daylight savings, the free period for NSW regions will be 11am–2pm AEST and SA will be 12pm–3pm ACST.
 - The Essential Energy region, which is mostly in NSW, contains some areas that observe different local time zones (e.g. South Australia or Queensland time). For customers in these areas, the free usage period will always start at 11am local time.
- Retailers do not have discretion to choose their own free usage periods for the Solar Sharer Offer standing offer.
- The Solar Sharer Offer will feature:
 - a daily supply charge
 - c/kWh usage charges which will vary by distribution region, based on the underlying time of use network tariff structure, as seen in the diagram below
 - a c/kWh reasonable usage charge for usage in excess of 24kWh during the free usage period.

Figure 3 Final Solar Sharer Offer tariff structure (local time)



How costs are recovered

- The first Solar Sharer Offer prioritises practicality in accordance with Design Principle 6 in the Australian Government's Solar Sharer Offer [consultation outcomes paper](#).
- A Solar Sharer Offer-specific cost stack was not developed for DMO 8. Instead, the first Solar Sharer Offer uses the same cost structure as the time of use DMO tariff.
- We estimated forgone revenue from the free usage period (including network costs) and allocated these costs to other c/kWh usage charges so that retailers can still recover efficient costs.
- The standard DMO consumption profile, or pattern of supply, has been used to set the Solar Sharer Offer's annual comparison price and calculate forgone revenue during the free usage period. This profile will not distinguish between different types of residential customer.

Approach to customer consent and communications

- Retailers must advise customers that the Solar Sharer Offer may not be suitable in all circumstances and opt-in customer agreement will be required to place a customer on the Solar Sharer Offer. This means that customers cannot be placed onto the Solar Sharer Offer by default nor when they are rolled onto a deemed contract. Default placements or end-of-contract rollovers must use a typical DMO standing offer (e.g. flat rate DMO or non-Solar Sharer Offer time of use DMO).
- Under the current Better Bills Guideline, retailers must advise customers at least every 100 days (or in alignment with the billing cycle if that cycle is greater than 100 days) whether they could be on a better offer (the Better Offer check). The Better Offer check requires comparison across all generally available plans. As the Solar Sharer Offer will be a generally available plan, retailers should include it when conducting Better Offer checks.
- A Better Offer check is based on 12 months of a customer's usage history. There will not be an expectation under the current Better Bills Guideline for retailers to assess whether the customer would be better off on the Solar Sharer Offer if they were to change their behaviour to take better advantage of the free usage period.

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