

Unpacking Battery Storage



1 Know What's on Offer

- * **Federal Rebate:** The 'Cheaper Home Batteries' program, a federally funded rebate, available from 01 July 2025.
- * **Regulation & Delivery:** Managed by the Clean Energy Regulator under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES).
- * **Eligibility:** Available to both on-grid and off-grid customers; claim once per site.
- * **Financial Incentive:** No means testing — approx. 30% upfront discount on purchase and installation.
- * **Requirements:** Must have existing solar panels or be installing new ones at time of Battery Installation.
- * **Capacity:** Suitable for systems from 5kWh to 50kWh (based on usable capacity).
- * **Approved Equipment:** Must be listed with the Clean Energy Council and be VPP-ready (subscription optional).
- * **Installation:** Performed by licensed electrician holding accreditation with Solar Accreditation Australia.
- * **Rebate Timeline:** Decreases annually until 2030 (similar to Solar PV STCs).
- * **Stacking Incentives:** Cannot combine federal and NSW state rebates but can be stacked with the NSW Virtual Power Plant incentive if connecting to a VPP.
- * **Claim Process:** Rebate is claimed by the installer via an aggregator; savings passed directly to the customer as an upfront discount off the total system price.

2 Determine Feasibility for Battery Storage

- * **Assess your system:** Check your solar production using any monitoring available with the system. Checking this through the dead of winter is a good time.
- * **Review your energy bill:** daily energy usage [kWh] and solar export [kWh] found on your Retailer energy bills will give you a very good idea if you have surplus energy to store.

3 Contact a Renewable Energy Electrical Contractor

- * **Find a specialist:** Choose an electrical contractor with at least 5 years' experience in solar and storage.
- * **Qualifications:** They must hold full design and install accreditation for Grid Connected Battery Systems (GCBS) with Solar Accreditation Australia (SAA) or SPS if off-grid is applicable. If the person coming out to design and quote on your system cannot show you this accreditation, they have no place in doing so.
- * **Site Survey:** An onsite assessment for battery storage is essential as your existing solar system installation, electrical infrastructure and proposed location/access for the equipment are crucial considerations.

4 Select a Trusted Contractor

- * **Recommendations:** Once you engage a contractor, trust their advice and the equipment they choose to use, there is usually good reason.
- * **Support:** Prefer to use contractors who offer post-installation support, especially pertinent to battery storage systems.

5 Understand the process

- * **The process:** After accepting the quotation, your Contractor will need to apply for approval from the local Network, this may take some time.
- * **Scheduling:** Scheduling for Installation will be dependent on the availability of equipment, freight, existing commitments and of course weather. Rome wasn't built in a day.
- * **Rebate Claim:** The rebate is claimed after installation by your installer, with savings to you passed on in the form of an upfront discount off the total system price.

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