

Flexible export limits

Creating a sustainable grid that benefits everyone

Up to 50% of Essential Energy's customers are forecast to have rooftop solar by 2040

The energy grid was originally designed for electricity to flow in one direction, from a centralised generation point through to homes and businesses. Now, there is energy flowing in both directions from sources like rooftop solar and batteries.

Essential Energy is introducing flexible export limits to better manage this two-way energy flow. This will help to keep the grid stable and allow more affordable, renewable energy to be used by everyone.

How flexible export limits work

Flexible export limits let customers with solar systems send more of their excess solar energy back into the electricity grid when there's capacity in the network. This can increase the earnings from the solar energy being generated that isn't being used.

Unlike fixed export limits that apply all day, flexible export limits adjust automatically based on network capacity. This means solar exports are only limited when it's necessary to protect the local power supply or maintain grid stability.

For customers with single-phase power, the export limit can go up to 10kW.

Connecting with smart inverters

To deliver flexible export limits, Essential Energy uses the CSIP-AUS protocol to connect with smart solar inverters and equipment over the internet. This allows us to send signals to automatically adjust export limits up or down throughout the day depending on the needs of the local network.



Who can get flexible exports

We're working with customers, solar retailers and installers to offer flexible export limits for new and upgraded solar systems up to (and including) 200kW from mid-2026. This is when the Emergency Backstop Mechanism commences in NSW.

Flexible export limits will not be mandatory. You can choose between this option and a low fixed limit.

Saving with flexible export limits

To maximise the value from your solar investment, it's best to use as much of your solar energy as possible to power your home or business during the day or store it for use outside daylight hours.

Flexible export limits may allow you to earn more from the excess solar energy you can't use.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit the Essential Energy website www.essentialenergy.com.au/solar