

Cheaper Home Batteries Program

FAQs

The Albanese Government has made a major election announcement, promising a Cheaper Home Batteries Program, should it be re-elected.

This policy will help millions of Australians permanently slash their power bills, increase their energy security, and help stabilise the electricity grid.

The Smart Energy Council has been working closely with the Albanese Government on this policy.

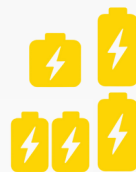


Got questions? We've got answers.



How do batteries work to save you money?

- ✓ Batteries can capture solar energy that you would have exported to the grid, for use during peak times and at night. Save some solar for later.
- ✓ Battery systems can also be set to charge from the grid when electricity prices are low, and then supply your home during peak times when electricity prices are high.
- ✓ Some battery systems can be programmed to work with a home energy management system and smart appliances, efficiently making the most of your solar and battery energy.
- ✓ You can opt-in to have your battery system controlled to actively support the electricity network under a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) in exchange for financial incentives from your energy retailer.
- ✓ All battery systems passively assist in supporting the electricity networks, which reduces ongoing costs for all electricity users, not just those with batteries.



How big are they and what do they cost?

- ✓ There are currently 77 home batteries on the Australian market that range in cost and size.
- ✓ The Smart Energy Council recommends a battery size between 5kWh and 30kWh starting at \$4,000.
- ✓ A Smart Energy Council audit of 9,500 energy users found that a 6kWh battery would meet the needs of 90% of homes which costs between \$5-\$8k.
- ✓ The best size battery for your household depends on the time and amount of energy you consume as well as your solar array size. Accredited solar and battery designers can model these options for you.
- ✓ Batteries are usually installed near your solar inverter, main switchboard or meter box. Some battery systems are modular allowing you to start with a smaller battery and expanding later.
- ✓ Features, size and installation specifics will affect the price of an installation. You should weigh up the upfront cost vs long-term savings and other benefits, such as higher grid independence, and resilience to blackouts.



Are Batteries safe?

- ✓ In Australia the Clean Energy Council endorses an "Approved Products List".
- ✓ Only licensed electricians can install household battery systems.
- ✓ All battery installers will need to be accredited with Solar Accreditation Australia (SAA).
- ✓ The Cheaper Home Batteries Program will be incorporated into the Small-Scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) with installations audited through the Clean Energy Regulator's ongoing inspection program, to monitor and police safe installation practices.



How long do they last, and what about warranty?

- ✓ Typical battery warranties are for a period of 10 years, with a defined energy throughput during the warranted lifetime.
- ✓ Lithium Ion batteries are expected to last well beyond the warranty period, with a diminished energy storage capacity, typically 70 to 80% of new capacity.
- ✓ To date, State based battery rebate schemes have required a minimum battery warranty of 10 years with other conditions, and it is expected any federal scheme will be similar.



Useful links:

<https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/households/guides-and-helpful-advice-households/battery-installation-information/guide-owning>

<https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-battery-buyers-guide>

