Summer readiness

fact sheet



What is the energy outlook for summer?

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)¹ has forecast that it expects most states in the National Electricity Market (NEM) to have adequate electricity supplies to meet the market reliability standard this summer. It has, however, raised concerns about reliability in Victoria if generating units at the Loy Yang A power station (500 megawatts) and the Mortlake power station (259 megawatts), which are currently being repaired, are not available. Both plants are scheduled to return to service in December.

As a contingency, AEMO has the ability to call on over 1500 megawatts of electricity; either from additional generation or Demand Response programs where homes and businesses are incentivised to shift or reduce their energy usage.

What is EnergyAustralia doing to be ready for summer?

EnergyAustralia has a dedicated workforce of 2500 people. All of them, especially those at our power plants, are working hard deliver energy to the communities we serve, for this summer and beyond.



Maintaining and upgrading our plants

Invested around \$180m in the past year to upgrade and maintain our generation fleet, making 90 megawatts of power available this summer; enough to power an additional 17,500 homes².



Making the system more reliable

Installed grid scale batteries at the Ballarat terminal station and the Gannawarra solar farm in northern Victoria.



Preparing for the future

Upgrading the Mt Piper power station to power an additional 55,000 NSW homes and working on the expansion of the Tallawarra power station.



Rewarding customers

Created the largest Demand Response community in Australia with more than 20,000 customers signed up to our Power Response program.

1 Australian Energy Market Operator, 2019 Electricity Statement of Opportunities, August 2019

2 Additional generation includes the installation of a demineralised water plant at the Jeeralang power station in Victoria (up to 60 megawatts) and a new fast gas generator at the Hallett power station in South Australia (30 megawatts).



What can people do this summer?

There is something we can all do to reduce or shift our energy consumption and save money at the same time. Some things are simple, others take a bit more time and effort.

Households

Small things

- Keep blinds closed on hot days to reflect heat. You can save \$50 a year off your energy bill.
- 2. Only cooling the rooms you use most and keep air-conditioning between 23 and 26 degrees. Each degree of difference can equal 10% less energy used.
- **3.** If you already have solar, use your appliances during the middle of the day, where possible.

Significant things

- **1.** Install solar panels to generate your own electricity³.
- **2**. Install insulation to reduce heating and cooling costs by $20\%^4$.





Businesses

Small things

- **1.** If your business relies on refrigeration, limit the amount of time staff need to pass through cool areas.
- 2. Get your heating and cooling systems checked regularly and install operational controls that make sure both systems are not on at the same time.





Significant things

- **1.** Install solar panels to generate your own electricity.
- 2. Replace standard lights with LEDs throughout your premises, including in fridges and display cases (if applicable). Replacing lights can reduce energy usage by 15 to 60%.
- **3**. If you already have solar, explore whether you can shift your heavy loads to the middle of the day (for example, refrigeration).



Help the grid and be rewarded

Residential EnergyAustralia customers can sign up to our Power Response trial via our website or by giving us a call. We will guide them through the process and provide advanced warning of any events so they can prepare to make any changes (eg. pre cooling their house).

Customers are rewarded with \$10 bill credit each event for being part of the program. This doubles to \$20 if they significantly reduce their consumption when asked to. Customers also receive \$5 bill credit for every event survey they complete

So far this year, the contribution of our Power Response community working together has shifted a total of

7,215 kWh, which is the equivalent to streaming Netflix continuously for seven years in High Definition.

We also have a similar program for our large business customers to enable them to assist with grid stability and be rewarded for it. Under the optional program customers are rewarded with a fixed dollar per kilowatt hour rate for reducing their usage from their baseline consumption during an event.

We are also exploring a program for our small business customers in 2020 to help them save too.

Demand Response programs are a win-win for customers. It helps them both save on their power bills and help our grid when it's needed most.

⁴ For advice on installing insulation visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/You-and-Your-Home/Building-and-renovating/Insulation/Ceiling-insulation



³ For advice on installing solar panels visit www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/consumers/buying-solar