

Summer Readiness fact sheet

Learn more about how EnergyAustralia helps maintain grid stability during summer, and beyond.

What is the energy outlook for summer 2020/21?

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)¹ has forecast that it expects all states in the National Electricity Market (NEM) to have adequate electricity supplies to meet the market reliability standards this summer.

An additional 4300 MW of new renewable capacity is operational this year compared to 2019/20.¹¹

Despite improvements, it has expressed some concerns about the risk of load shedding, particularly on very high peak demand days that coincide with lower levels of renewable generation or prolonged periods of unexpected transmission or generation outages.

As a contingency, AEMO can call on reserve suppliers 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 get ready for summer?

EnergyAustralia has a dedicated workforce of more than 2300 people.

All of them, especially those at our power plants, have been working hard to deliver energy to the communities we serve, to be ready for this summer and beyond.

Maintaining and upgrading our plants

- Invested around \$200 million in the past year to upgrade and maintain our generation fleet.
- Invested an additional \$8 million in COVID-19 safety compliance measures to ensure the work could continue during the year in time to be ready for summer.

Making the system more reliable

- Our diverse energy portfolio includes grid-scale battery storage 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.



Mount Piper Power Station, located in NSW's Central West region, 25 kilometres from Lithgow.

Rewarding customers for powering down

- From November 2020, eligible residential electricity customers are automatically enrolled in our innovative Demand Response program, PowerResponse.
- Participating customers get paid to use less energy during peak demand periods, helping customers save money and reduce demand on the grid.



+2300

Employees working to deliver energy



+\$200M

Invested to upgrade and maintain generation fleet



\$8M

Additional investment in COVID-19 safety compliance



50,000

Additional homes to be powered by upcoming Mt Piper upgrade

We have a dedicated workforce of more than 2300 people who have worked hard to deliver energy for summer and beyond.

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

- Keep blinds or curtains closed on hot days to reflect heat.
- Only cool the rooms you use most and set your air-conditioner to 26°C for maximum efficiency.
- If you already have solar, use your appliances during the middle of the day, where possible.
- Install solar panels to generate your own electricity.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Install insulation to reduce heating and cooling costs.^{iv}



Installing solar panels on your home or business can harness the sun to generate your own electricity.

Businesses

- If your business relies on refrigeration, limit the amount of time staff need to pass through cool areas.
- Get your heating and cooling systems checked regularly and install operational controls that make sure both systems are not on at the same time.
- Install solar panels to generate your own electricity.
- Replace standard lights with LEDs throughout your premises, including in fridges and display cases, if applicable.

- If you already have solar and your business uses more power at night, install batteries to store excess power.

And just as important – make sure you're on the energy plan that's right for you.

If you're not sure, call EnergyAustralia – 133 466.

Help the grid and be rewarded

Some 400,000 households as well as around 230 commercial sites and business customers have signed up to power down whilst getting paid for using less energy during peak periods. Overall, our Demand Response programs, help the grid by making 110 MW available to the grid.

EnergyAustralia is also developing other offerings to help customers use energy better.

These include our Virtual Power Plant (VPP), where customers can get paid for supplying excess power from their battery storage to the grid.

Our Demand Response and VPP programs are a win-win for our customers.

They help customers save on their energy bills and help our grid when it's needed the most.

For more information about PowerResponse or our Virtual Power Plant program, visit energyaustralia.com.au/home/help-and-support/faqs/powerresponse-virtual-power-plant.

These energy saving tips are intended as a guide only. Actual savings will depend on the appliance type, your home, your home's actual energy use, where you live and number of occupants.



~400,000

Households are a part of PowerResponse



Win-Win

Our Demand Programs helps customers save money & use less energy



110 MW

Less energy demand on the grid through our demand response programs



26°C

For your aircon in summer for maximum efficiency

i Australian Energy Market Operator, 2020 Electricity Statement of Opportunities, August 2020

ii Please note AEMO's forecast was published August 2020 for summer 2020-21

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

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