

Solar feed-in tariff benchmark for 2026-27

25 May 2026

For 2026-27, the all-day solar feed-in tariff benchmark is 3.4 to 6.5 c/kWh

IPART estimates that your solar exports will be worth between 3.4 to 6.5 c/kWh from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027, if your retailer pays you a flat rate for your solar exports. Your retailer may offer you a feed-in tariff within this range, however they are not required to. They may choose not to offer you a solar feed-in tariff or they may offer a higher or lower feed-in tariff.

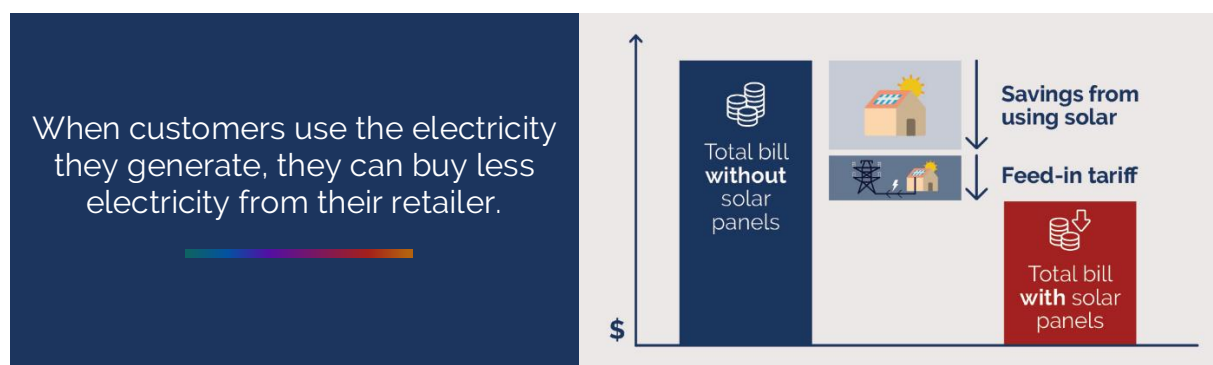
You can compare energy plans and solar feed-in tariffs on the Commonwealth Government's [Energy Made Easy](#) website. Some plans with higher feed-in tariffs may have conditions attached or be paired with higher prices, so you need to look at the entire energy plan, as well as your electricity consumption and solar exports when considering which plan is best for you.

Why IPART sets a solar feed-in tariff benchmark

IPART sets a benchmark to help you understand whether retailers are offering reasonable feed-in tariffs for the energy you export to the grid.

The largest benefit of solar panels is from using the electricity you generate

Because the retail price of electricity is much higher than a solar feed-in tariff, the largest benefit of solar panels is the saving on your energy bill when you use the solar electricity you generate to power your home instead of buying this electricity from your retailer. As an added benefit, you can be paid a solar feed-in tariff for any unused electricity you export to the grid.

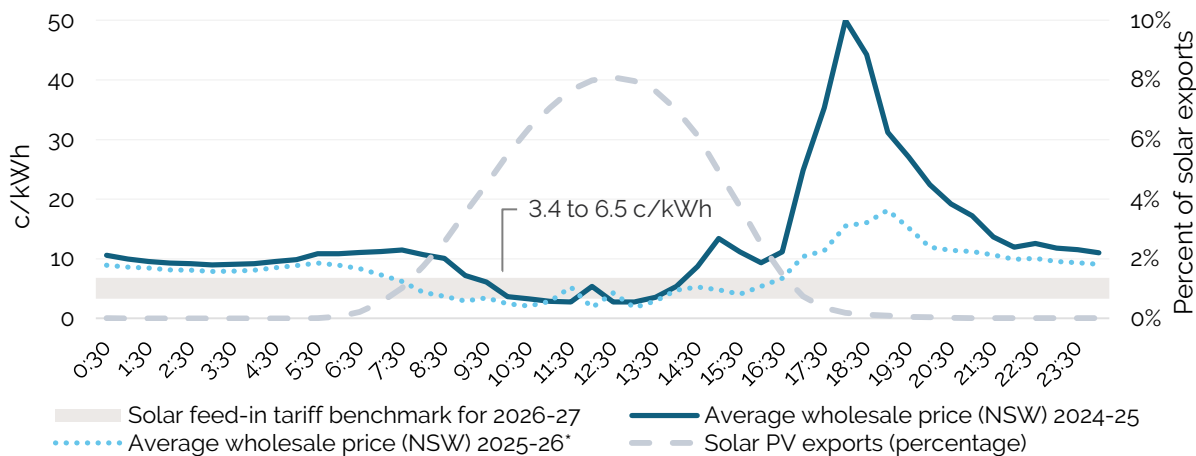


Our benchmark is based on our estimate of the wholesale price of electricity at the times when solar is exporting

We estimate the value of solar exports based on the wholesale price of electricity at the times solar is exporting to the grid. This is what retailers would have paid if they had bought the electricity from the National Electricity Market.

Our benchmark for 2026-27 is lower than the benchmark of 4.8 to 7.3 c/kWh that we set for 2025-26. This reflects our estimate of lower wholesale prices over the 2026-27 financial year at the times solar is exporting.

Average wholesale electricity price by time-of-day and benchmark for 2026-27



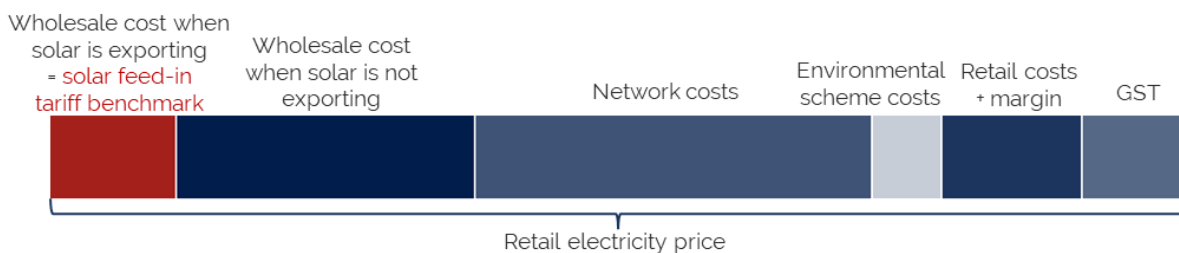
Note: *Price data for 2025-26 is financial year-to-date from 1 July 2025 to 30 April 2026. The percent of solar exports is based on sample Ausgrid solar exports for 2024-25. Source: IPART analysis of NEM wholesale spot prices for NSW and sample Ausgrid solar exports.

Why our benchmark is lower than the retail price of electricity

When solar electricity is supplied to other households in your neighbourhood, retailers still need to recover other costs on each kilowatt hour of electricity they supply. These costs include:

- network charges for using the grid
- the difference between wholesale costs when solar is exporting to the grid and their average wholesale costs, which are higher
- environmental obligations to purchase renewable energy, demand reduction certificates, and paying into the climate change fund
- their operating costs like billing services and running their call centres, and GST.

Retailers also make a margin (or profit) when they supply electricity. When added up, all these costs make the retail electricity price much higher than just the cost of wholesale electricity when solar is exported.



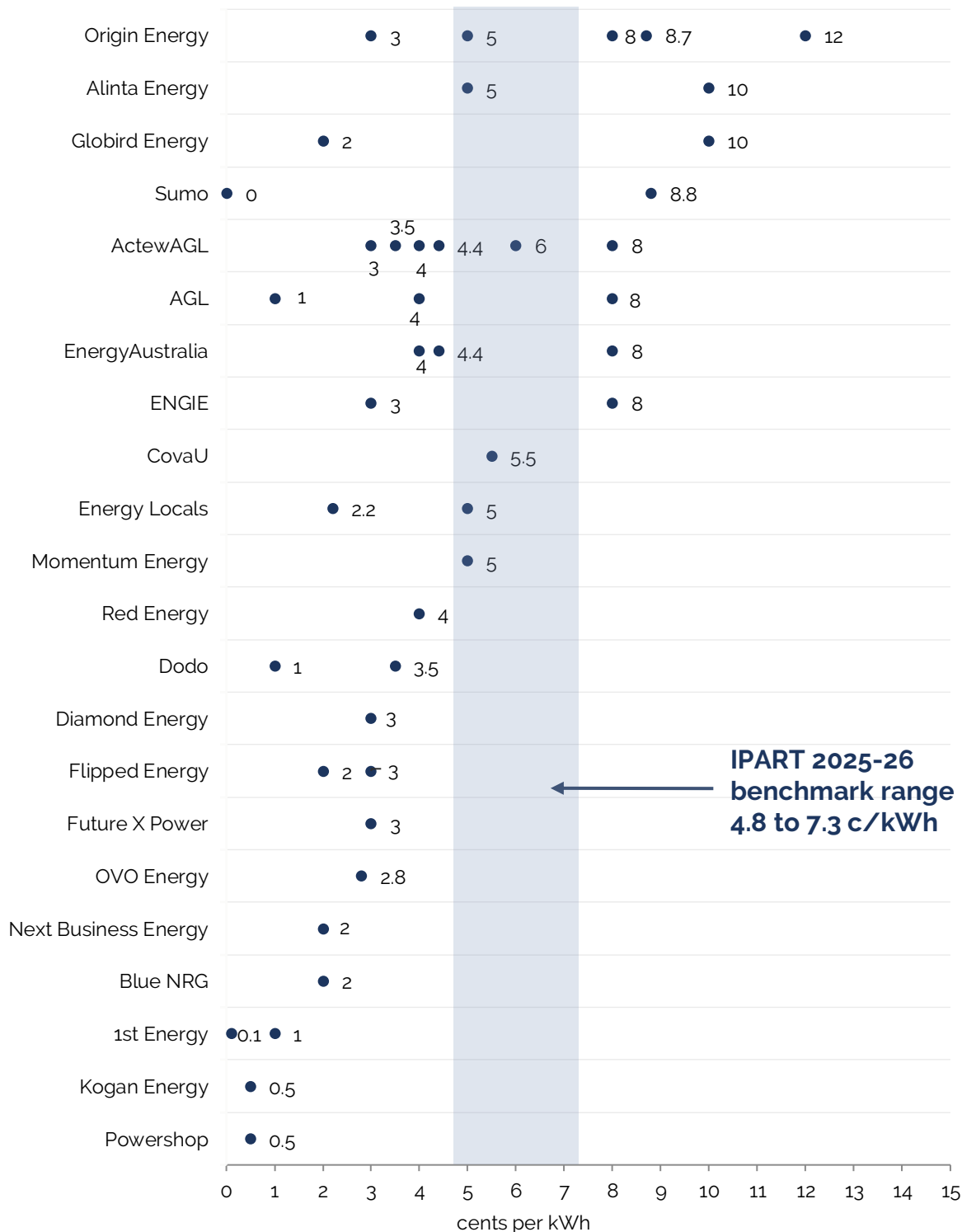
Could IPART set a higher feed-in tariff benchmark?

Retailers are not required to set their feed-in tariff offers within IPART's benchmark. However, if we set a higher benchmark and retailers followed this, it would mean retailers would need to recover this cost by charging all customers higher overall prices. This would mean that customers who don't have solar panels would end up paying more. Many of these customers are unable to install solar because they rent or live in an apartment.

How do retailers' solar feed-in tariffs compare to IPART's benchmark?

IPART's 2025-26 benchmark range is 4.8 to 7.3 c/kWh. The chart below shows that in May 2026 there were a range of offers available. Around half the retailers had offers that were within our range or higher. However, you need to consider the energy retail rates, fees and charges, and your electricity consumption and solar export patterns to determine which plan is best for you.

Solar feed-in tariffs available in NSW – May 2026



Source: Energy Made Easy and IPART analysis.