

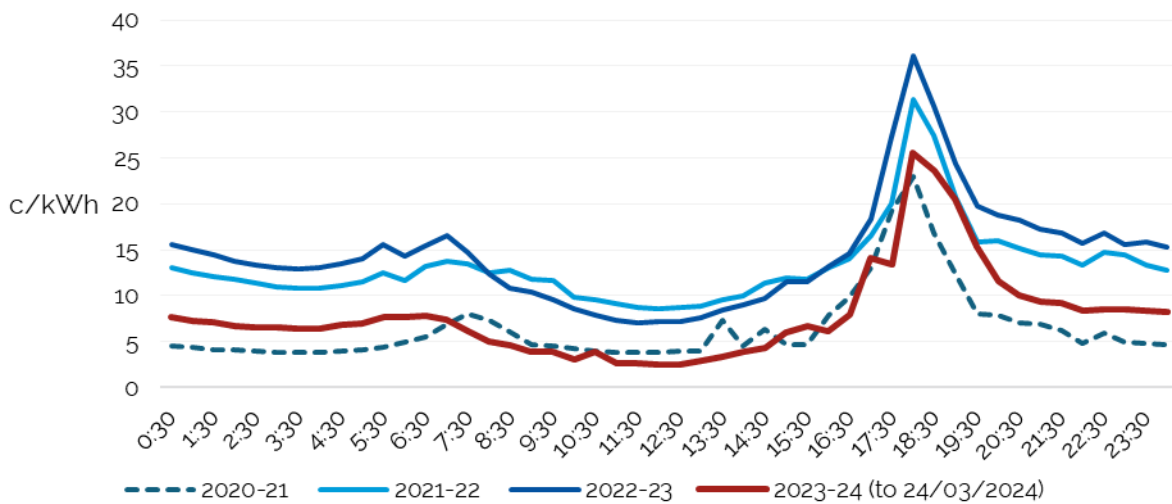
Time-of-day solar feed-in tariff benchmark ranges for 2024–25

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IPART publishes time-of-day solar feed-in benchmark ranges which help guide retailers and consumers about the value of solar exports at different times of the day. The chart below shows that wholesale prices are:

- lower through the middle of the day (when solar energy meets a proportion of demand)
- higher in the later afternoon and nighttime (when solar energy meets little or no demand).

Figure 1 Average wholesale prices by time of day (c/kWh)



Note: 0:30 means the period between 0:00 and 0:30 am.

Source: Australian Energy Market Operator, with IPART analysis.

IPART’s benchmarks reflect the above variation in wholesale electricity prices. Our time-of-day benchmarks for 2024-25 are in Table 1 below. Table 1 shows that the benchmark ranges for 2024–25 are slightly lower than the 2023-24 benchmark ranges. The 2024-25 benchmark ranges are lower due to a decrease in the forecast price of wholesale electricity for 2024–25, compared to 2023-24.

Table 1 Time-of-day solar feed-in tariff benchmark ranges

Time period	2023–24 (c/kWh)	2024–25 (c/kWh)	% of solar exports ^a
6 am to 3 pm	7.2 to 8.7	4.7 to 6.0	89.73
3pm to 4 pm	9.9 to 11.7	6.9 to 8.8	6.7
4pm to 5 pm	12.2 to 14.9	8.1 to 10.1	2.75
5pm to 6 pm	12.1 to 15.3	9.4 to 11.9	0.6
6pm to 7 pm	23.2 to 27.3	18.4 to 22.0	0.06
7pm to 8 pm	14.9 to 17.5	12.6 to 15.1	0.01
8 pm to 6 am	11.2 to 13.2	9.6 to 11.5	0.14

a. Percentages are based on 2022-23 exports.

Source: IPART analysis based on annual solar export data from Ausgrid, Essential Energy and Endeavour Energy.

Our solar feed-in tariff benchmark ranges are higher in the evening

Our highest time-of-day benchmark for 2024–25 is 18.4 to 22 c/kWh during 6pm to 7 pm. At this time less than 0.1% of solar exports currently occur. However, as batteries become more widespread, customers will have more control over when they can export excess electricity to the grid.

In addition, solar customers with electric vehicles will be able to charge their car battery during the day with their solar panels. In the future, new technology could mean that as well as powering their car, the car batteries could be used to power household usage or export electricity to the grid at high value times.

Retailers generally do not offer solar feed-in tariffs that vary across times of the day

Retailers can offer different feed-in tariffs throughout the day in line with our benchmarks to reflect the variation in wholesale prices, however, they are not required to. Most retailers are continuing to offer all-day (or flat rate) solar feed-in tariffs. As of 30 April 2024, only 2 retailers were offering time-of-day solar feed-in tariffs.

A growing number of retailers are offering multi-tiered feed-in tariffs, where customers receive a higher price up to a capped volume of solar exports per day and a lower price for all subsequent solar exports. Some retailers also provide higher rates to customers that buy their solar panels, or a higher rate that is only available during certain hours of the day.

You need to consider the entire energy plan, the size of your solar system, as well as your electricity consumption and solar exports when comparing plans.

Box 1 Compare electricity prices and solar feed-in tariffs on Energy Made Easy

You can compare electricity prices 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 retail 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.