

Time-of-day solar feed-in tariff benchmarks for 2026-27

25 May 2026

We have set time-of-day benchmarks for each distribution network in NSW

IPART publishes time-of-day feed-in tariff benchmarks to guide consumers about the value of their solar exports at different times of the day. Our benchmarks for 2026-27 are shown in the table below.

Time-of-day solar feed-in tariff benchmarks for 2026-27

Network time window	2026-27 benchmark range (c/kWh)
Ausgrid	
10 am to 3 pm	3.9 to 4
3 pm to 4 pm	4.8 to 8.5
4 pm to 9 pm	17.2 to 18.7
9 pm to 10 am	3.2 to 4.9
Endeavour Energy	
10 am to 2 pm	3.1 to 3.2
2 pm to 4 pm	5.2 to 7.5
4 pm to 8 pm	16.9 to 19.9
8 pm to 10 am	3.2 to 4.8
Essential Energy	
10 am to 3 pm	3.3 to 4.4
3 pm to 5 pm	6 to 10
5 pm to 8 pm	26.6 to 33.3
8 pm to 10 am	3.3 to 5.3

Note: IPART sets a different time-of-day benchmark for each distribution network in NSW, reflecting the different export patterns and network structures in each area. The time windows for the time-of-day feed-in tariff benchmarks are aligned with the network export tariff times in each area. See page 2 for more information on network export tariffs.

The benchmarks for 2026-27 are around 3 to 4 c/kWh for most of the day, then increase to over 17 c/kWh in the late afternoon and evening. To receive higher feed-in tariffs, you will need a battery that can store and discharge electricity and be on an energy plan with a feed-in tariff that varies based on the time of day.

Your retailer may offer you a feed-in tariff within IPART's ranges, however they are not required to. They may also offer you a feed-in tariff that covers different time windows.

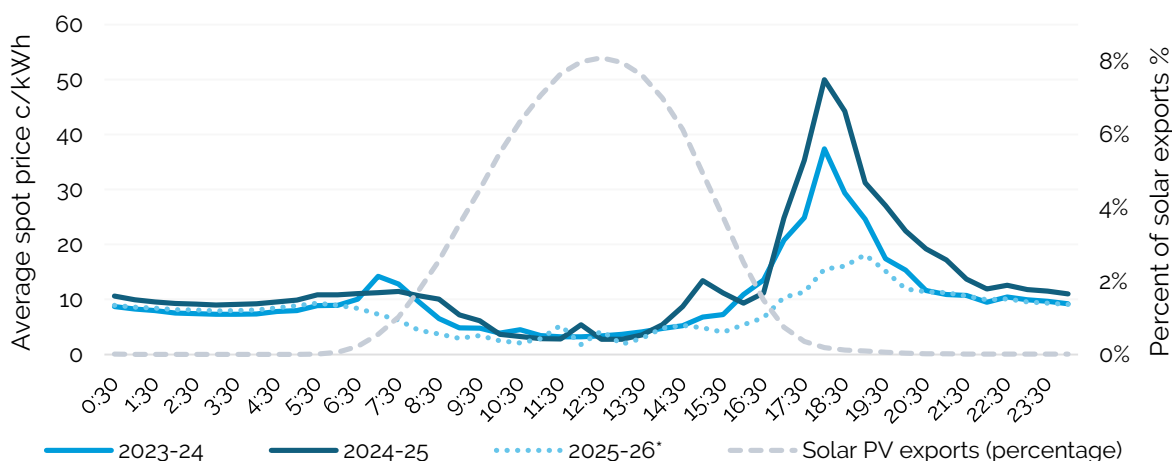
You can compare energy plans and solar feed-in tariffs on the Commonwealth Government's [Energy Made Easy](#) website. Some energy plans with higher solar feed-in tariffs may have conditions attached or be paired with higher prices. You should look at the entire plan, as well as your electricity consumption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

Our time-of-day benchmarks reflect the wholesale price at different times

We calculate the value of solar exports based on our estimate of the wholesale price of electricity at different times of the day. The chart below shows that the average wholesale price of electricity in NSW is:

- lower during the middle of the day, when solar exports meet a large share of demand
- higher in the late afternoon and evening, when the supply of solar exports is low and when the demand for electricity increases.

Average wholesale electricity price and solar exports by time of day, NSW



Notes: *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.

Our time-of-day benchmarks include network export charges and rebates

Our benchmarks for 2026-27 also incorporate network export tariffs. These network tariffs include:

- a charge for solar exports during certain daytime hours after a free threshold is reached
- a rebate for solar exports during peak evening times.

Each network provider has set different time periods for charges and rewards for their network export tariffs. You can find more information about each distribution network's export tariffs through the following links: [Ausgrid's Network Export Tariffs](#); [Endeavour Energy's Network Export Tariffs](#); and [Essential Energy's Network Export Tariffs](#).

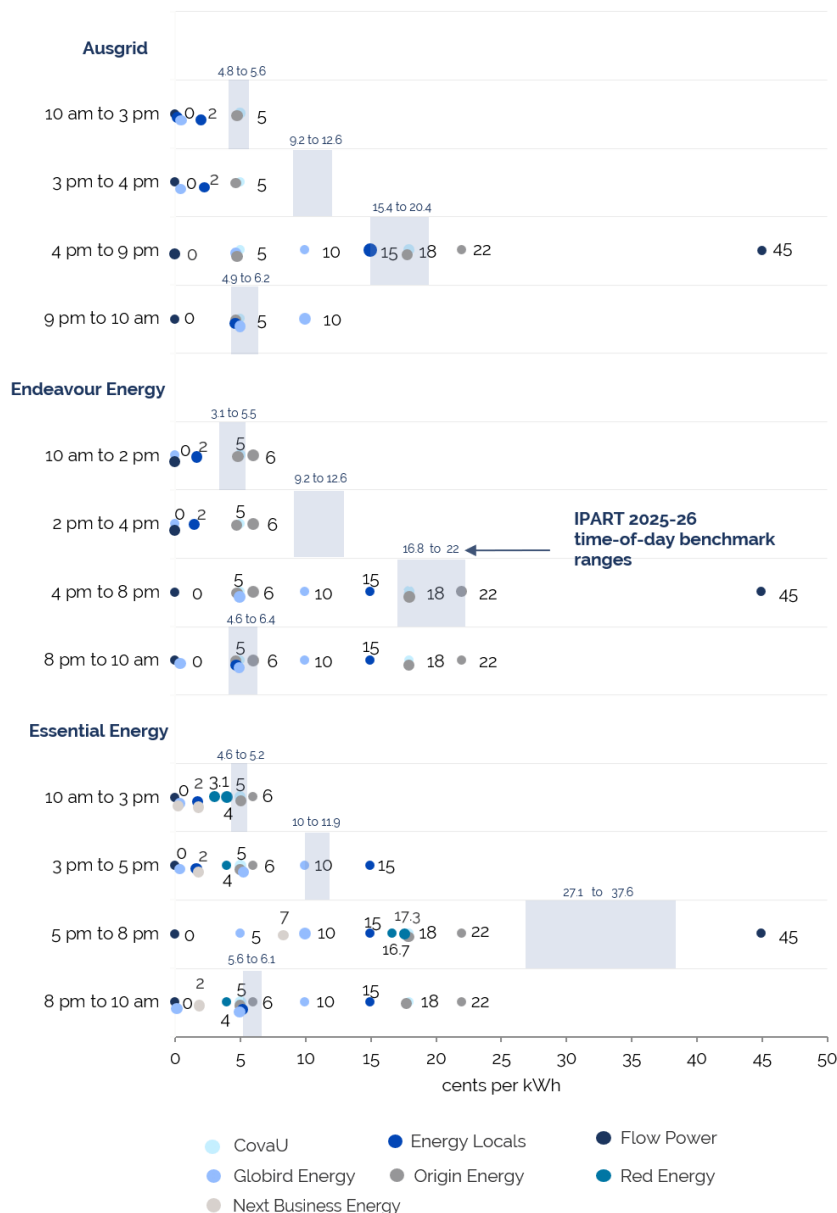
Some retailers are offering time-of-day feed-in tariffs in 2025-26

This is the first year that we are observing retailers offering fixed feed-in tariffs that vary by the time of day.^a

^a In previous years, we observed that Amber Electric offered a real time feed-in tariff that changes every 30 minutes driven by the wholesale price of electricity. Amber Electric continues to offer this product.

IPART's 2025-26 time-of-day benchmarks ranged from 3 to 6 c/kWh for most of the day and over 15 c/kWh in the evenings. The chart below shows that there were some retailers that were offering feed-in tariffs within our benchmark ranges or higher for the peak evening periods during 4pm to 9pm in Ausgrid's network area, 4pm to 8pm in Endeavour Energy's network area and 5pm to 8pm in Essential Energy's network area. 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.

Time-of-day feed-in tariffs available in NSW – May 2026



Note: Retailers can offer different feed-in tariffs under different plans for the same time windows. Retailers can also offer feed-in tariffs that cover different time windows e.g. CovaU offers a feed-in tariff of 18 c/kWh from 5pm to 9pm and 5 c/kWh at all other times across Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy distribution networks. Amber Electric also offers a time-varying feed-in tariff that varies across the day depending on the price of wholesale electricity.
 Source: Energy Made Easy and IPART analysis.

Some retailers also offer virtual power plant (VPP) programs that include feed-in tariffs or other payments that vary by the time of the day. To be eligible to join a VPP, a consumer will typically need a specific type of home battery.