



Solar Sharer Offer

Tony Kozera

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Solar Sharer Offer

- ▶ What is it?
- ▶ How is it relevant?
- ▶ What are the experts saying?
- ▶ Use cases?

Solar Sharer Offer – free electricity

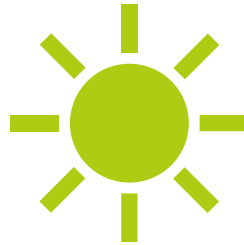
3 hours of free electricity explained



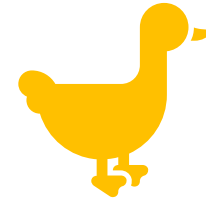
Our solar success problem



1 in 4 homes now has
rooftop solar (4 million
households)



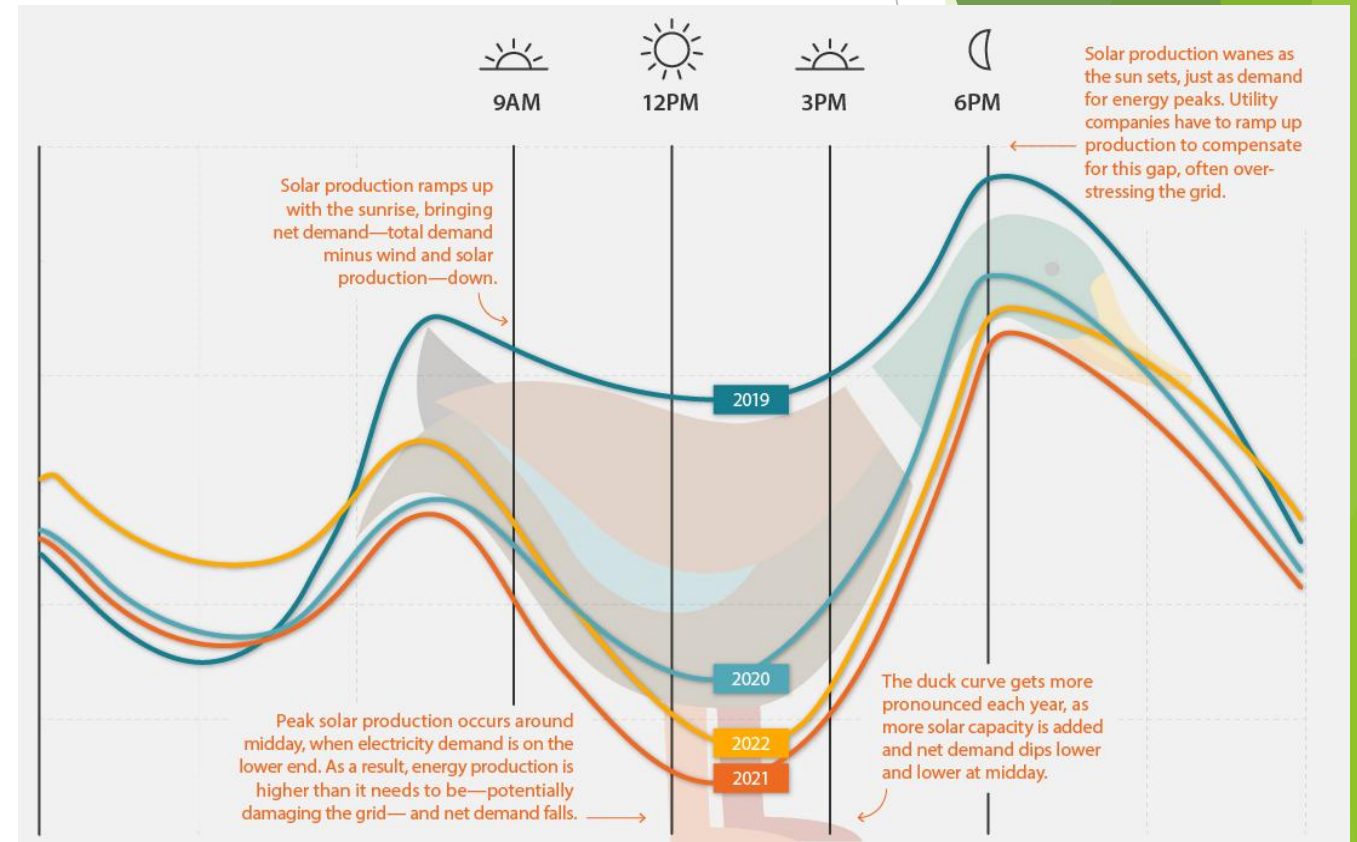
spreading the benefits of
Australia's solar boom

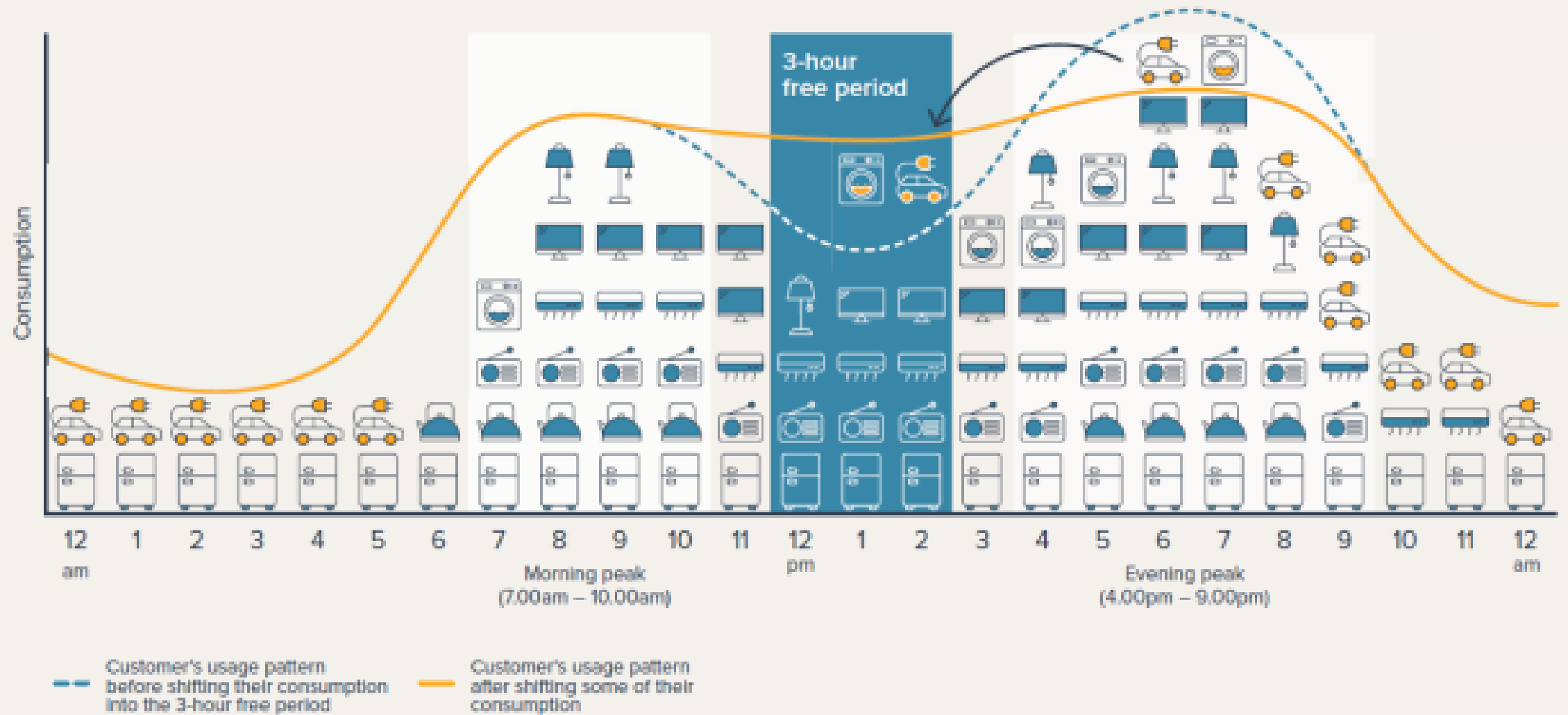


Making the most of cheap
daytime solar (Duck curve)

What is the duck curve?

- ▶ Morning → electricity is valuable
- ▶ Midday → solar flood and lower demand
- ▶ Evening → demand surge and highest prices





Aims of the Solar Sharer Offer

- ▶ share some solar benefits with households that cannot install solar
- ▶ reduce costs (for households without a solar installation)
- ▶ ease grid strain
- ▶ increase efficiency /reduce waste

Who benefits from rooftop solar today?

- ✓ Homeowners
- ✓ People who can afford installation

Less benefit for

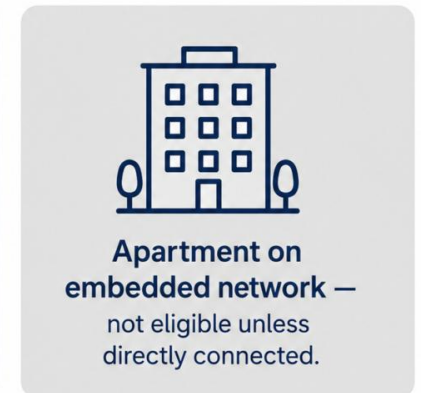
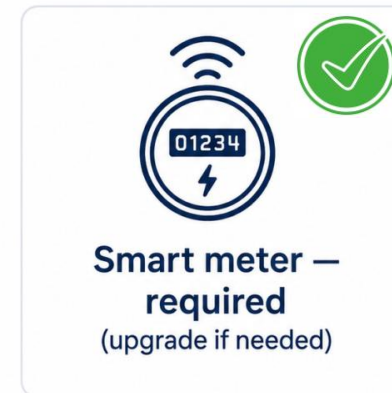
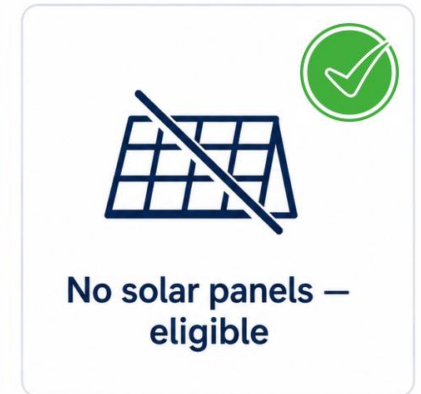
- ✗ Renters
- ✗ Apartment residents
- ✗ Low-income households
- ✗ Homes with shaded roofs



SDG 7 reminds us that affordable clean energy should be accessible to everyone, not just households able to install solar.

What is the Solar Sharer Offer?

- ▶ Opt-in electricity plan available in:
 - ▶ SE Queensland
 - ▶ NSW
 - ▶ South Australia
- ▶ Provides FREE electricity between 11am-2pm
 - ▶ Smart meter required
 - ▶ 24kWh daily cap
 - ▶ No feed-in taiff
- ▶ Aim: Shift electricity usage to times when solar is abundant.



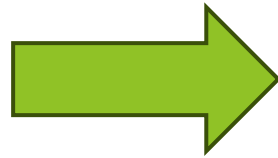
Who is it REALLY designed for?

Likely Winner	Maybe	Probably Not
Retirees	Working families	Solar households
Work from home	EV owners	Good feed-in tariffs
Home during day	Battery owners	Evening users

The trick is behaviour change

Before

- ▶ Laundry after dinner
- ▶ Dishwasher overnight
- ▶ Cool house at 5pm



After

- ▶ Laundry at 11am
- ▶ Dishwasher at 12noon
- ▶ Pre-cool house by 2pm

Customers should compare offers carefully because behaviour change is needed to realise savings.

What could you run during the free period?

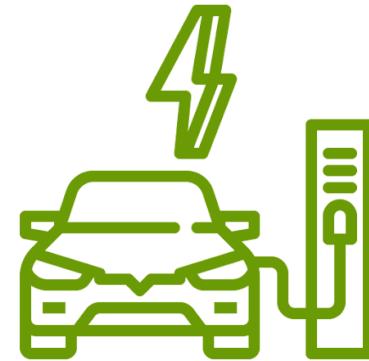
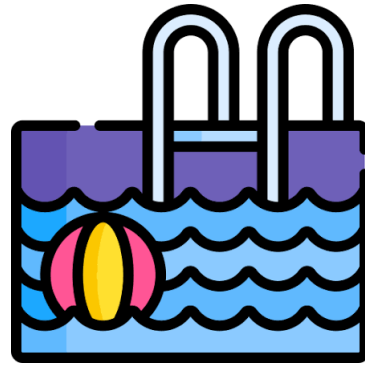
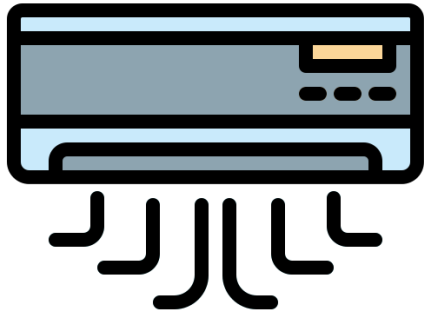
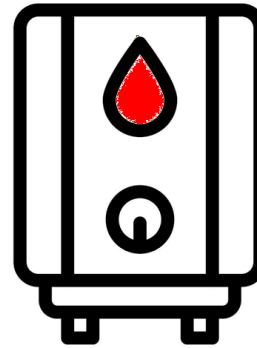
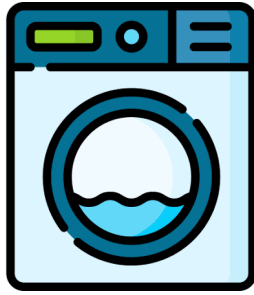
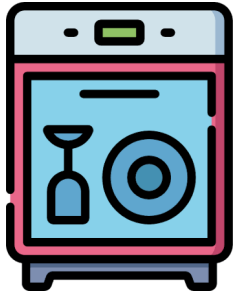
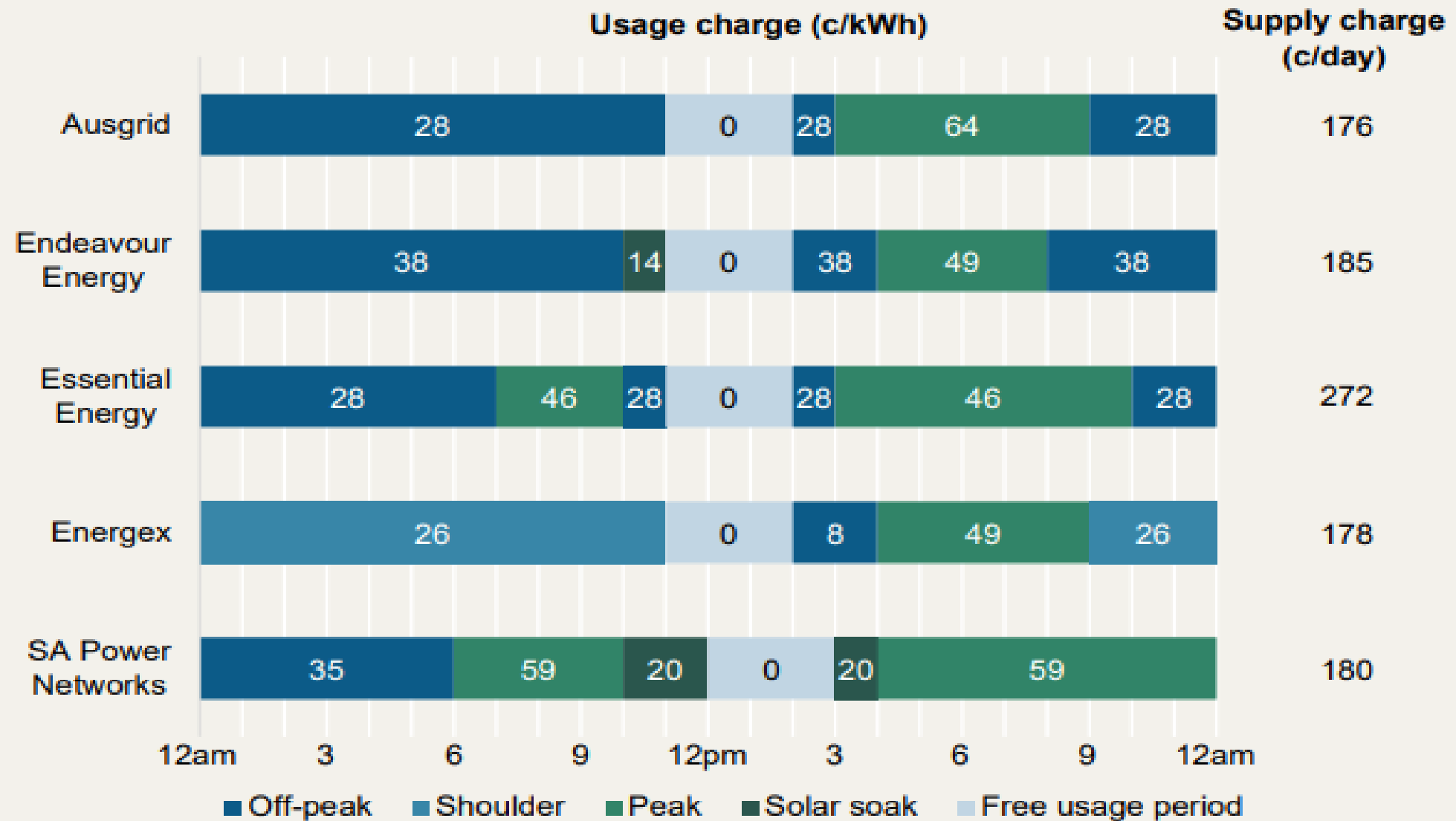


Figure 3 Final Solar Sharer Offer tariff structure (local time)



Example 1 (SE Qld)

Retired couple (Energex / AGL plan Standard offer)

Daily use: 12 kWh

Can shift:

- ▶ washing machine
- ▶ dishwasher
- ▶ hot water (if timed)
- ▶ air conditioning

They move **5 kWh/day** into the free period.

Approximate annual cost:

- ▶ $5 \times 365 \times \$0.26 \approx \$474.50/\text{year}$
- ▶ Less the higher tariffs outside the free window,
- ▶ $7 \text{ kWh} \times 365 \times \$0.23 \text{ (49-26)} = \$587.65/\text{year}$



Example 2

Working family

Parents away all day

Most electricity is used:

- ▶ 6-9 am
- ▶ 5-10 pm

Shift 6 kWh with timers or more to midday.

- ▶ Higher evening rates could wipe this out and add to your bill.



Example 3

EV Owners (possible use case)

- ▶ 1 phase vs 3 phase
- ▶ 24 kWh daytime charge
- ▶ At 30c/kWh value= \$7.20 free energy session
- ▶ Daily charging = around \$2, 628/year value
- ▶ Compare with specialist EV tariffs before switching.



Example 4

Solar owner

- ▶ You may already be using cheap solar energy
- ▶ Most Solar sharer plans remove feed-in tariffs
- ▶ Savings can be lower than expected
- ▶ Check your individual situation



Your own rooftop solar remains one of the cheapest sources of household energy.

Why it matters beyond your power bill

When more people use electricity during the day:

- ✓ less evening peak demand
- ✓ better use of solar generation
- ✓ less wasted renewable energy
- ✓ reduced need to network investment
- ✓ lower emissions

The goal is to move demand to where the clean energy already exists.

My take

The Solar *Shifter* Offer is:

- ▶ Innovative
- ▶ Potentially useful
- ▶ Worth investigating

But:

- ⚠ Not suitable for every household
- ⚠ Requires behaviour change
- ⚠ Not generally better than rooftop solar

Summary

- ▶ Australia now has more midday solar than ever before.
- ▶ Solar Sharer aims to share some of those benefits.
- ▶ Success depends on shifting electricity use to 11am-2pm.
- ▶ More households will save money.
- ▶ Rooftop solar remains the cheapest household energy source.
- ▶ **Remember, It's not really about free electricity. It's about using solar energy when it's available.**

Questions?



References

Australian Government - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

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