



FEED-IN TARIFFS: STATE BY STATE

A feed-in tariff (FiT) is a payment from either a government or an energy retailer for electricity that is generated by you, either at home or in a business. The payment is made to recognise the value of energy that you feed back into the electricity grid.

Most FiTs are generated by renewable energy systems, such as a small-scale solar panels on the roof of your home or a larger wind or hydro system on a property owned either by an individual or a business. The tariffs are designed to compensate consumers or businesses that purchase products such as solar panels by helping to speed up the process of getting back the original purchase amount.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF FIT – NET AND GROSS

A net FiT works by offsetting the total amount of electricity you consume from the grid against the amount you are able to generate independently. The tariff is paid for every excess kilowatt (kW) of energy that is fed back into the grid.

A gross FiT is a payment to you for the total amount of electricity that you generate. But this model requires electricity consumers to pay for all energy that you consume as well.



State Schemes

There is no national FiT scheme and, as a result, tariffs vary by state.

Principles for FiTs have been outlined by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), which agreed in 2012 that the National FiT Arrangements be amended and that 'premium' schemes be closed to new participants by 2014. One of the National Principles on FiTs was that micro generation should receive "fair and reasonable" value for exported energy.

In June 2015, NSW's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) released an energy issues paper on solar FiTs. In setting the context for the review, IPART states that with retailers offering more diverse solar products for customers, including zero upfront cost PV systems, zero interest payment options and battery storage, traditional FiTs may become less relevant over time.

VICTORIA

Victoria commenced a Premium Feed-in Tariff (PFiT) scheme in late 2009. It offered 60c/kWh to eligible households, businesses and community organisations with roof-top solar systems of up to 5kW. Customers will continue to receive the PFiT until 2024.

PFiT closed at the end of 2011 and was replaced by the Transitional Feed-in Tariff (TFiT) and Standard Feed-in Tariff (SFiT) schemes:

TFiT offered 25c/kWh until 31 December 2016, and closed to new applicants on 31 December 2012.

SFiT provided a one-for-one rate. Customers with solar or other renewable energy systems, such as wind, hydro or biomass, with a system size of less than 100kW were able to access the scheme prior to its closure on 31 December 2012. Eligible customers received the rate until 31 December 2016.

In 2012, for the period that the TFiT was open to new applicants, there was no requirement for electricity retailers to offer the SFiT to solar PV customers with systems up to 5kW. Provided they met the relevant eligibility criteria, these customers would generally have been offered TFiT.

The current FiT commenced on 1 January 2013. It is available to solar and other eligible forms of renewable energy, such as wind, hydro or biomass, with a system size less than 100kW.

The rate is set by Victoria's Essential Services Commission each year. From 1 January 2016 the minimum of 5c/kWh was in place until 30 June 2017, at which point it increased to 11.3c/kWh.

From 1 July 2018, retailers will be able pay solar system customers either a single-rate tariff or time-varying tariff. The single rate tariff is 9.9c/kWh. Under the time-varying tariff, customers will be credited 7.1, 10.3, or 29.0c/kWh depending on the time of day.

For more: Visit the [Victorian Government website](#)

NEW SOUTH WALES

The NSW Solar Bonus Scheme started on 1 January 2010. It provided a rate of 60c/kWh for eligible customers with small-scale solar or wind generators of less than 10kW in capacity. In October 2010 the rate was reduced to 20c/kWh. The scheme closed to new applicants in April 2011 and ended on 31 December 2016.

From 1 January 2017 there has not been a mandated FiT. Customers can move to a FiT from an electricity retailer. IPART establishes an annual benchmark range for the FiT that retailers voluntarily set. The benchmark range for 2017/18 was 11.9 to 15.0c/kWh. The current all-day range for 2018/19 is 6.9 to 8.4c/kWh.

For more: Visit the [IPART website](#).

QUEENSLAND

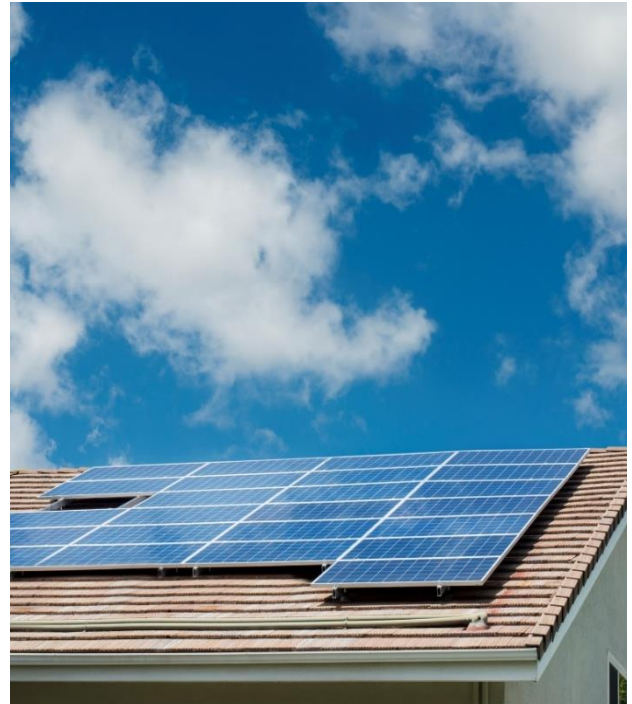
Queensland's Solar Bonus Scheme commenced in 2008 to customers with a solar PV system of less than 5kW capacity. The scheme's 44c/kWh FiT rate continues until 1 July 2028 for those who entered the scheme before 10 July 2012. It is now closed to new customers.

Different voluntary FiT rates are now available from South East Queensland electricity retailers (defined as the area covered by the Energex supply network).

A government mandated FiT is available to customers in Regional Queensland (defined as the region outside the area covered by Energex). The rate for Regional Queensland is set each year by the Queensland Competition Authority. A FiT of 10.102c/kWh applied for the 2017/18 financial year. From 1 July 2018, a FiT of 9.369c/kWh applies until to 30 June 2019.

A voluntary time-varying tariff is also available to solar customers in Regional Queensland. As at 1 July 2018, these rates are to be confirmed.

For more: Visit the [Queensland Government](#) website.



ACT

The ACT Government's gross FiT scheme commenced in March 2009. It provided a rate of 50c/kWh for systems with a capacity of up to 10kW, and 40c/kWh for systems larger than 10kW and less than 30kW.

For systems up to 30kWh installed between 1 July 2010 and 31 May 2011, the FiT rate was 45.7c/kWh. The scheme closed to new entrants in July 2011.

ActewAGL's voluntary one-to-one scheme closed on June 30, 2013. It was offered to eligible renewable energy generators with less than 30kW of capacity connected to ActewAGL electricity network. The rate is payable until 2020.

Currently the ACT has not mandated a FiT rate, instead it is determined by electricity retailers. From 1 July 2014 the rate offered is generally in the range of 6 to 11c/kWh.

For more: Visit the [ACT Government](#) website.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA's solar FiT has two components: the distributor (SA Power Networks) contribution plus an electricity retailer contribution that varies between retailers.

SA commenced a net FiT scheme in July 2008 that was open to customers who consumed less than 160mEh per year with a solar system up to 10kW (single phase) or 30kW (three phase). The scheme's distributor tariff is 44c/kWh, which will continue for eligible customers until 30 June 2028. It closed to new applicants on 30 September 2011.

Households that joined from 1 October 2011 but before 30 September 2013, received a 16c/kWh distributor tariff until 30 September 2016.

From January 2013 the retailer FiT rate has been determined by the Essential Services Commission (ESC) of South Australia. The rate was 6c/kWh until December 2014, at which point it reduced to 5.3c/kWh. In December 2016, the ESC announced its decision to no longer set a minimum retailer contribution. Each retailer is required to determine the rate it will pay solar customers.

For more: Visit the [SA Government](#) website.

More information

Contact your electricity retailer and ask if you're eligible to receive a FiT rate.

[Energy Made Easy](#) is a free online and independent comparison site operated by the Australian Energy Regulator.

[Victorian Energy Compare](#) is a free online Victorian Government price comparator.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WA started a net FiT scheme in July 2010. Under the Renewable Energy Buyback Scheme, the state government contributed 40c/kWh with an extra 7c/kWh paid by state owned retailers, Synergy and Horizon Power. Retailers establish their own rates for buying excess energy and are responsible for running the scheme. This scheme closed to new applicants on 1 August 2011.

The FiT now varies between retailers. New systems connected under the buyback scheme in Perth and the South-West region of the state, receive 7.2c/kWh from Synergy. In regional and remote areas, Horizon Power provides an area-specific rate.

For more: Visit the [WA Government website](#).

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The NT started with a gross one-for-one FiT. This changed in late 2015 to a net feed-in tariff. Customers under the Alice Springs Solar City initiative receive 51.28c/kWh, capped at \$5/day, but that rate is only for existing customers under the initiative, no new customers can receive this rate.

Retailers now offer various electricity tariffs for residential customers, small businesses and large commercial customers in the NT.

For more: Read [Power and Water's](#) FAQs.

TASMANIA

Tasmania's net FiT scheme started with a rate of 27.8c/kWh and closed to new applicants on 1 September 2013. Eligible customers who submitted applications by 30 August 2013 receive a one-for-one rate until 1 January 2019. For applications lodged after that date a Transitional FiT rate of 8c/kWh applied until December 2013.

A standard rate applies to residential customers with a solar system with a single phase connection up to 10 kilowatts or a three phase system up to 30 kilowatts. The rate is 8.541c/kWh as at 1 July 2018. Tasmania's current solar FiT is being reviewed by the state government, with new arrangements to be implemented by 1 January 2019.

For more: Visit the [Tasmanian Government](#) website.