

Solar Export Connections



Ausgrid is introducing new solar export options for customers installing new solar systems or upgrading existing ones.

Why are we introducing flexible export connections?

More people are installing solar to reduce their energy bills and lower carbon emissions. By 2039, we predict over a third of customers will have solar, and nearly a third of those will also have batteries.

To support this growth, Ausgrid customers can now **choose between a flexible or fixed** solar export connection.

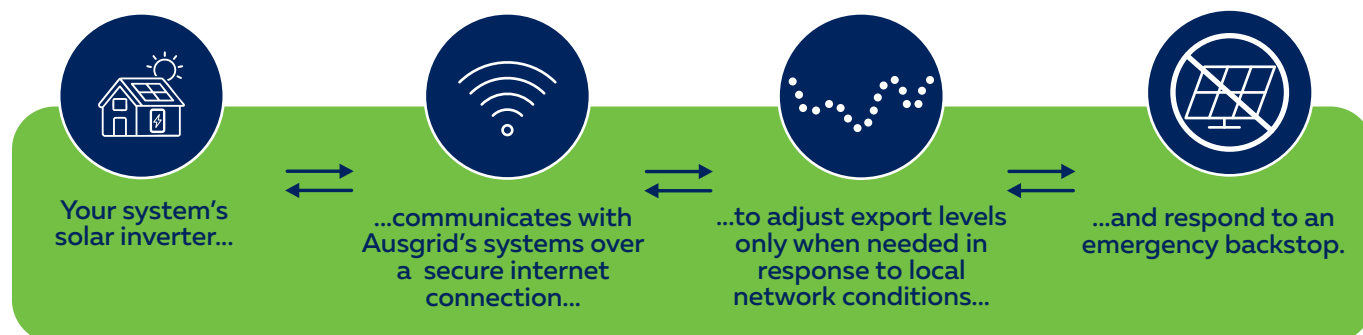
Flexible exports let more customers send excess solar to the network without affecting stability. Without it, Ausgrid would eventually need widespread export limits, as other networks have introduced. This flexibility means all current and future solar customers can fairly access the network and make the most of their excess solar.

What does this mean for solar customers?

From late 2026, all **new and upgraded solar systems** in NSW must have a smart solar inverter that can communicate with the electricity network over the internet. This new requirement makes it possible for Ausgrid to offer a **choice of flexible or fixed export connections** to solar customers.

Customers with existing solar systems that are not upgrading are unaffected by these changes. The new requirements apply if you upgrade your existing system's inverter.

Your type of solar connection does not change how much solar energy you generate or use. It only affects how much excess solar power you can export to the network.



Do I need an internet connection?

If you do not have a reliable internet connection, you can still connect solar to the network to consume or store your solar energy. Your solar export will be limited to a static export limit of **1.5 kW per site**.

When an internet connection becomes available, you can change to a flexible or fixed export connection to safely increase your solar exports. To do this, contact your solar retailer or installer and ask them to configure your smart inverter to connect to Ausgrid's systems.



For more information visit
ausgrid.com.au/backstop



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Flexible export connection

A flexible export connection allows the **highest possible solar export** to new and upgrading solar customers. You can send more excess solar back to the network for everyone to benefit.

- 1 Complying solar systems (up to 30 kW) will be automatically approved to export more excess solar – **up to 10 kW per phase** (up to 30 kW for a property with three-phase power) most of the time
- 2 Ausgrid may adjust your solar exports **only when needed** (down to a minimum of 1.5 kW per site) to keep the local network stable
- 3 Helps you send more excess solar back into the network for everyone to benefit

Fixed export connection

If you choose a fixed export connection, your complying solar system will be automatically approved to export 3 kW per site (not per phase).

- 1 You have a lower, fixed export limit of **3 kW per site** at all times
- 2 Ausgrid may not adjust your solar export up or down in response to local network conditions

How do I make sure I have the right export connection?

Talk to your solar retailer about the right export connection for your needs. When you or your solar retailer applies to connect a new or upgrading solar system, you will be asked about your internet connectivity and will need to choose a flexible or fixed export connection.

At any time, you can request a change to a flexible or fixed export connection through our connection portal.

What happens during an Emergency Backstop?

In emergency circumstances, the **Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)** can direct **Ausgrid** to implement an Emergency Backstop to keep the whole electricity system stable. This is separate from Ausgrid's day-to-day management of its distribution network.

Whether you have a flexible or a fixed export connection, your solar system must still respond to an Emergency Backstop. Complying solar systems with smart inverters will receive a signal to temporarily reduce exports or pause generation until AEMO advises the emergency has passed. Solar systems will then resume normal operation.

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