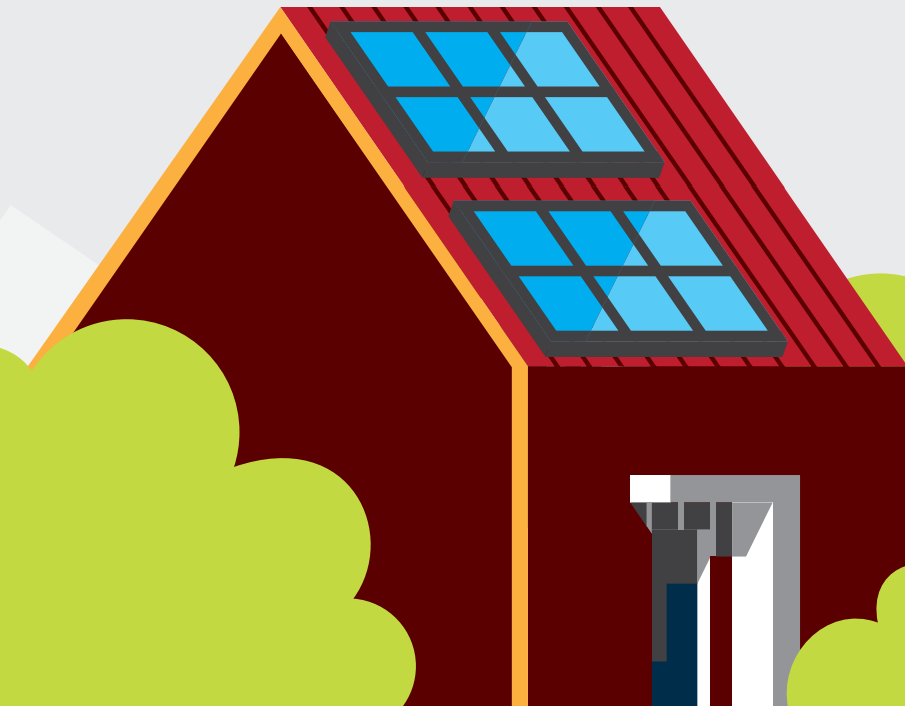




GETTING SOLAR CONNECTED

This document explains more about how to get connected to a property or site, with an existing power connection.



For more information visit
www.tasnetworks.com.au
or call
1300 137 008



The sun's energy is a free and clean form of renewable energy that can be used to generate electricity using solar panels.

To get solar connected you must go through an application and connection process with TasNetworks and your Electricity Retailer.

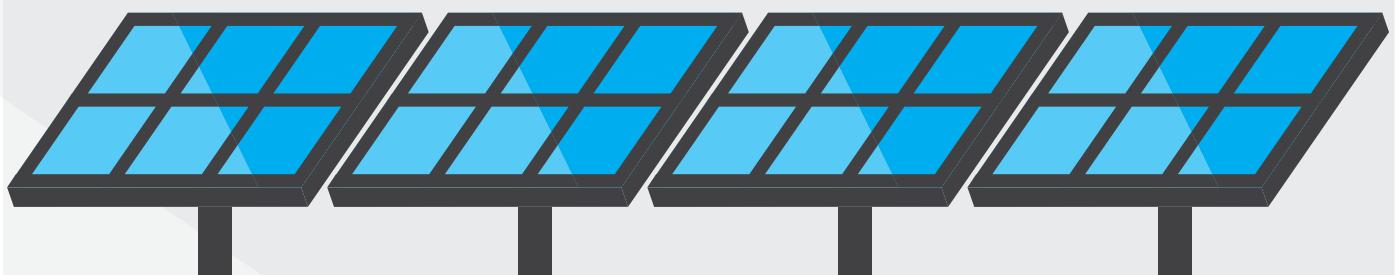
If you do not have power to the site, a new connection application will be required. If you have an existing solar connection and wish to make changes, the same application process applies.

A number of accredited professionals are required to support the process, to ensure your new or upgraded solar equipment is installed correctly and safely.

TYPES OF TASNETWORKS CONNECTIONS

There are three types of TasNetworks connections, which are based on how much energy will be generated; which also affects the time and costs associated with the connection.

TasNetworks has a dedicated [Connections Portal](#) where customers and contractors can lodge and track each solar application.



CONNECTION TYPE	DESCRIPTION	COSTS	TIME
Micro*	Connecting a system that generates up to 10 kilowatt per phase.	There is no fee if the network doesn't require changes or upgrades.	If the network doesn't require changes or upgrades, the average timeframe for us to finalise our part is up to 4-6 weeks.
Small	Connecting a system that generates over 10 kilowatt per phase.	It is recommended you contact your electricity retailer to find out if any additional fees apply.	
Large	Connecting a system that generates more than 200 kilowatt per phase.	The applicant must pay any required costs e.g. system studies or network changes. It is recommended you contact your electricity retailer to find out if any additional fees apply.	This timeframe is negotiated with the customer.

* A typical residential solar panel system can produce 3.5 kilowatt of electricity (Australian Energy Market Operator - National Electricity Market Fact Sheet July 2020)

WHO IS INVOLVED IN GETTING SOLAR CONNECTED?

When adding (or upgrading) solar to your property, there are several people/roles involved in the process and it is important to understand who does what.

TasNetworks is responsible for maintaining and managing the electricity infrastructure in Tasmania.

Every installation of solar equipment must be completed by trained and licensed professionals, and follow **TasNetworks' Embedded Generation Technical Requirements** to ensure it is connected.

The roles involved in getting solar connected are explained below:

CUSTOMER

- Initiates the solar connection process with either a Solar Retailer or Electrical Contractor (or combination of both)
- Can lodge and progress the application through **TasNetworks' Connections Portal**, though it is recommended your Electrical Contractor or Solar Retailer/installer complete this step due to the technical information required.

SOLAR RETAILER/INSTALLER

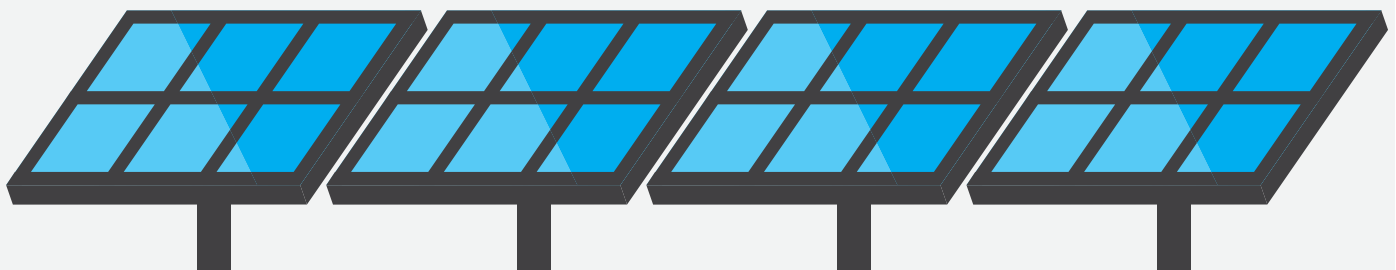
- Works with the customer to help identify the most suitable solar product
- Can lodge and progress the application (on behalf of a customer) and engages a contractor (or completes themselves if an installer) to install the solar equipment and complete the required electrical works
- Provides TasNetworks with technical information on the solar equipment.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

- Can lodge and progress the application (on behalf of a customer)
- Can install the solar equipment at the customer's property (specialised qualifications are required)
- If they lodged the application, they will provide TasNetworks with technical information on the solar equipment
- Must verify that the electrical work has been done safely prior to TasNetworks passing the details to the Electricity Retailer, to complete the connection.

ELECTRICITY RETAILER

- Once the application is approved, equipment is installed at the property and all system information is provided to TasNetworks, the Electricity Retailer is informed, so they can finalise the connection process (which may result in a change to your electricity meter).



CUSTOMER TIPS

- Do your own research before you embark on a new connection (free resources below)
- Engage an Electrical Contractor/Solar Retailer/Installer as early as possible
- It is recommended you ask your installer or contractor to lodge and progress the application on your behalf (via **TasNetworks Connection Portal**)
- Contact your Electricity Retailer if you have questions about the meter and electricity account.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Tasmanian and Australian Government has some helpful information when considering installing solar at your property:

<https://www.cbos.tas.gov.au/topics/housing/building-renovating/installing-solar-panels-in-your-home>

<https://arena.gov.au/renewable-energy/solar/>

<https://www.energy.gov.au/households/solar-pv-and-batteries>

PROCESS TO INSTALL SOLAR AT YOUR PROPERTY

Once you have made the decision to install (or upgrade) solar to your property or site, the following steps must be followed to get connected:

STEP 1

Customer/Electrical Contractor/Solar Retailer/Installer lodges a connection application form via TasNetworks Connections Portal (**The Portal**).

STEP 2

TasNetworks will respond within 10 business days to advise of any costs, request additional information or provide approval to proceed.

STEP 3

Once approved, the Installer and/or Electrical Contractor will set up the solar equipment at the property.

STEP 4

The person who submitted the application provides technical information on the solar equipment (e.g. inverter serial number) via **The Portal** (required by the Australian Energy Market Operator). **This information MUST be provided before TasNetworks will progress the connection to the Electrical Retailer.**

STEP 5

An Electrical Contractor must complete and verify the electrical works have been completed to the required technical and safety standards (via the **Portal** as a registered Electrical Contractor user).

STEP 6

Once verified, TasNetworks will forward to the Electricity Retailer.

STEP 7

The Electricity Retailer will arrange to complete the required metering e.g. install a new meter, if the existing is not compatible.

STEP 8

Once the connection process is complete, the Electrical Contractor and/or Installer can turn the solar system on.

