



Great News! The Solar Farm at Newstead is Taking Customers

WHO IS SELLING THE ELECTRICITY?

We've partnered with a local Australian company, Flow Power, who'll provide you with 100% GreenPower accredited electricity linked to the Newstead solar farm when it becomes operational mid-2024.

Several years ago, we chose Flow Power to build the Newstead Energy Project as well as retail its electricity. The [Flow Power website](#) will tell you about them and about buying their electricity, but we thought you might also like to hear from RN so please read on.

HOW MUCH WILL THE ELECTRICITY COST?

The price of electricity from a retailer is always made up of a minimum of two parts. One part is the cost per day to be connected to the electricity grid and the other is the cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) of the electricity you use.

The combination of these two things, plus some other features, make up 'The Newstead Retail Offer'.

On the Newstead Retail Offer, the **daily charge to be connected to the grid is \$1.16** and the **cents per kWh (shown as c/kWh on the bill) is \$0.3061** (unless you are on a time of use tariff then the c/kWh is \$0.2922).

This charge will change depending on your Price Efficiency Adjustment (PEA), which we talk about more below.

RENEWABLE NEWSTEAD'S TAKE ON FLOW POWER'S RETAIL OFFER (AKA 'FLOW HOME')

The Flow Home plan is exciting to RN because:

- It offers 100% GreenPower linked to electricity that is locally generated (Captain's Gully Road).
- Its price structure is the way of the future (see below).
- Very competitive daily rate.
- Users can work towards a lower price per kWh.
- Flow Power is a local business based in Hawthorn (Victoria).
- Flow Power is committed to ongoing product improvements.
- Local support from Australian-based team.
- Generally good for people with no rooftop solar.
- Generally good for people who are able to use more energy when prices are low (usually, during the day) and work towards a discounted rate via the Price Efficiency Adjustment (more info on the PEA below).

- Means people can avoid investing in rooftop solar and still access the benefits of renewable electricity.
- If you prefer not to use the 'tech', you can opt out of getting it when you sign up (but it does help you understand and better manage your electricity load)

However, this offer has some challenges and won't be suitable for everyone:

- The upper and lower limits of the Price Efficiency Adjustment are not set (see below).
- No paper bills are offered.
- Payments can only be made online or via direct debit.
- You must have an email address.
- You need a smart phone as you can only sign up using the Flow Power app (available from the Google Play Store or Apple's App Store).
- If you have solar, the price you pay (including your feed-in tariff) will vary depending on how much of your solar you use as it is being generated (as opposed to storing it with a battery or feeding it straight back into the grid). More on this below.

PRICE EFFICIENCY ADJUSTMENT

As mentioned, the Newstead Retail Offer also includes a special feature called the Price Efficiency Adjustment (PEA), which we believe is the way of the future.

The PEA means that you pay less for electricity when the market price is cheaper.. Usually electricity is cheaper in the middle of the day when renewables flood the grid, so if you can use it while it's cheaper, you can reduce your final kWh rate for the month.

In contrast, if you don't use much electricity when it's cheaper but you use more in the late afternoon and early evening when it's more expensive, then the price per kWh you pay for that month will go up.

There are different outcomes you could experience, particularly if you have rooftop solar. With rooftop solar you're using your own electricity when the sun is shining and you may not get the best value from the PEA discount (although, worth noting that you do save money anyway by using your own generated electricity).

Over ten households linked to RN have been Flow Power customers over the last 18 months and have experienced the PEA. Some of us have been able to use it to receive a discount, and others have experienced a slight increase in the hourly rate – it all depends on your set-up and how flexible you can be with your energy use.

There is more information about the PEA on the [Flow Power website](#).

FEED-IN PRICE EFFICIENCY ADJUSTMENT (FEED-IN PEA)

Flow Power have recently introduced a Feed-in Price Efficiency Adjustment (or Feed-in PEA), that alters how your feed-in tariff is calculated. It's an additional pricing feature that's only relevant to customers who have rooftop solar and / or a battery installed.

The Feed-in PEA means that if you export solar electricity from your rooftop system to the grid when there is lots available (cheap wholesale prices), then you will be paid a lower feed-in tariff rate. On

the other hand, if you can export when lots of people want electricity and there isn't so much available (late afternoon/early evening), then you will be paid more.

The Feed-in PEA encourages you to use your solar electricity as it's generated, or to store it and export it when grid prices are high.

The Feed-in PEA is a new feature that (unlike the standard PEA) hasn't yet been tested by RN but will apply to all new Flow Power customers.

OTHER FEATURES

Flow Power's vision is to develop tech that helps customers make a habit of using electricity when it's cheaper. As part of the retail offer, you'll receive a Flow Home Kit, which consists of access to a smart phone app (the Flow Power app), the Flow Hub, and the Smart Plug.

The Flow Hub uses wireless information from household smart meters to tell you how much electricity you're using. The Smart Plug helps you turn your devices on and off remotely and take advantage of lower price or avoid higher price periods. The Flow Power app lets you view your energy usage and gives you personalised advice.

The Flow Power team are currently working on these tools to improve your ability to save money, which means you may experience bugs or unexpected changes from time to time. They will also use feedback from the early users to make improvements so they can develop this technology to make it easy for more people to improve their energy usage.

WHO IS THIS PLAN RIGHT FOR?

The reality of the Flow Home product is that it won't suit everyone. For example, it may not be as attractive for households that have rooftop solar but no battery, those unable to shift some energy use to the daytime, and those that are very price sensitive (noting that adding 100% Green Power adds cost to the plan).

On the other hand, if you want a competitively priced green electricity plan available to Newstead, with features designed to accelerate the transition to renewables, we think that the Flow Home retail offer is it.

FUNDING NEWSTEAD'S FUTURE

As a special part of the Newstead Retail Offer, Flow Power has also provided \$5,000 of grant funding for Newstead community groups each year for the next 10 years.

This program will be administered by the Newstead RTC and we anticipate that the first round of grants will become available in August 2024.

FINAL NOTE

Flow Power will soon contact those who have signed up through RN to receive more information on this plan.

And for those that do sign up before our solar farm becomes operational, your bill will reference 'Karadoc Solar Farm' until we start exporting, at which point it will switch to 'Newstead Energy Project'. **IMPORTANT: To ensure your account is linked with the Newstead Solar Farm when it**

becomes operational, please add the promo code 30-2 when signing up as a customer to Flow Power any time.