

Solar PV Electricity Generating System

Your responsibilities



Why did I get this brochure?

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels benefit residents and business owners by generating energy from the sun and then feeding any excess energy back into the electricity network. This helps reduce electricity bills and your greenhouse gas emissions.

A solar power system includes PV panels, an inverter and associated electrical and mounting equipment. Once your PV panels have been installed, it's your responsibility to check your system each year to ensure your solar PV system connects and disconnects to the electricity grid safely. If you have bought a house with existing PV panels, you may be unaware of your obligations regarding the safe operation of your unit.

Your legal requirements

As the owner of an embedded generating system you have obligations, under Victoria's *Electricity Distribution Code*:

1. Ensure the system can operate continuously at the required system frequency of 50Hz (or within allowable variations);
2. Identify that your solar PV system connected to AusNet Services' network complies with Victoria's *Electricity Distribution Code*, the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* as well as any other Australian Standards;
3. The solar PV system must be maintained in a safe condition.

You can read more about your obligations under Victoria's *Electricity Distribution Code* (section 7) at the Essential Services Commission's website www.esc.vic.gov.au.

Safely living with solar PV panels

Regular maintenance of your electricity generating system is important to ensure that it is operating correctly and remains safe for everyone living in the premises, as well as any AusNet Services' electrical workers in the broader network. This checklist will also enhance the efficiency of your unit's operation:

- > Always engage appropriately qualified and licensed professionals to undertake work on your solar PV system;
- > Engage a licensed electrical worker to perform the annual anti-islanding test;
- > Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and procedures when shutting down the solar PV system;
- > Do not attempt to touch or turn off the solar PV system in floods. Wait until the waters have receded, then contact a Clean Energy Council accredited installer to reactivate the unit. An accredited installer can be found at the following web link: <http://www.solaraccreditation.com.au/acccec/consumers/findaninstaller>; and
- > Always treat the solar unit as 'live', regardless of any perceived isolations being made. You are still dealing with electricity.

What is an anti-islanding test?

The islanding inverter function ensures that when the network power is lost, your inverter shuts down and stops power exporting to the grid. This is to protect workers who arrive to restore network power. The test to confirm the correct operation of the inverter is referred to as the anti-islanding test. The test steps are listed on the annual anti-islanding test card enclosed.

AusNet Services' rights in the interest of safety

The testing process outlined in this brochure can establish that your solar PV system no longer complies with the relevant Australian Standards or is in breach of the *Electricity Safety Act* or in fact any safety regulations. In the interests of safety, AusNet Services may disconnect or request you disconnect your generating system until the issue is rectified.



Figure 1 – Powerboard



Figure 2 – Solar PV System



Note: Your powerboard should be located under cover.



Safe operation and your responsibility to AusNet Services

We have enclosed with this information pack a card on how to undertake an anti-island test and this can be kept in your meter box for future reference. Please ensure that this test is performed by a qualified and licensed electrical worker to avoid risk to anyone who is working on the electricity network – a much larger network that exists beyond your premises.

The safety and well-being of the community and our employees is a high priority so we ask that:

- > The anti-islanding test is performed annually to ensure your inverter operates correctly in the event of an outage – this will keep our workers safe when maintaining the electricity network;
- > You alert emergency services personnel on your premises regarding the solar PV system so that they can take appropriate actions to safeguard their operations; and
- > You contact AusNet Services on **1300 360 795** before making any changes to the solar PV system capacity or inverter.



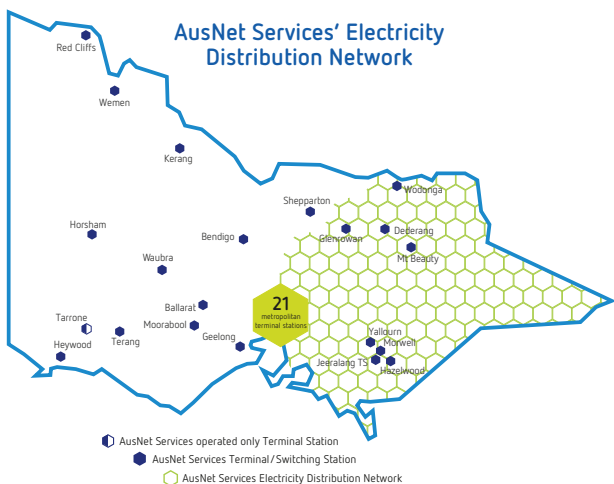
Who is AusNet Services?

AusNet Services is an electricity delivery business, bringing the benefits of electricity and gas supply to millions of Victorians.

Otherwise known as your 'electricity distributor', we deliver electricity to your home or business via our network of assets – our powerpoles, powerlines and underground electricity cables. As well as delivering electricity, we also maintain our electricity network.

Where do we operate?

There are five Victorian electricity distributors, each operating in a specific geographical area. AusNet Services covers the north and east of Victoria as shown on the map below.



Contact us

Customer enquiries

1300 360 795

8am – 5pm, Monday to Friday

Electricity faults and emergencies

13 17 99

24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Interpreter service: **13 14 50**

Email: csc@ausnetservices.com.au

www.ausnetservices.com.au

Connect with us

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