



South Australia - One family beats the blackout

Project details

System size:	5kW	Date:	2016
Energy produced:	5.5 MWh yr.	Connection:	On-grid
Solar panel:	-	CO² savings:	7 tonnes per yr.
No. of panels:	20	Inverter type:	1 x SolarEdge
Battery:	Powerwall 1	No. of battery's:	1

Brian Gillespie lives in a part of South Australia close to Adelaide. The area is an energy blackout zone with regular outages to the electricity network. Having already had a solar system installed Brian wanted to add a Powerwall home battery as an addition to his solar. Natural Solar were able to provide the technical skill to install the Tesla Powerwall in an AC coupled backup configuration.



The main reason why Brian bought his Powerwall is because of power outages - adding that they happen monthly where he lives.

Background

With the ever present threat of Blackouts becoming more frequent throughout Australia it is a good to know that a solution has been tried and tested. For Natural Solar customer Brian Gillespie from South Australia it was a complete shock to find out that for the previous three hours the rest of his neighbours had been in complete darkness. Why ... because Brian has a Tesla Powerwall and whilst everyone else was suffering from the lack of power he was lighting his home and watching TV as normal. In fact Brian has stated that his Powerwall can stay off-grid for 10 hours without any issues supplying his home with useful energy to run lights and the television.

Adding a Powerwall to a system

One of the main reasons Brian came to Natural Solar was to purchase a Powerwall, his reasons were to beat the many blackouts experienced in and around the area he lives. However, the state wide blackout was very severe and many 1000's of South Australian's were left without power for a considerable time.

Brian's backup circuit in his home is used exclusively for when the power fails and contains his house lights and a few power points for the TV and other smaller electrical appliances. Brian only discovered that there was a power outage whilst watching the news, he said he opened the oven door to see that the light wasn't working.

“It was lovely, the power went out everywhere and then we bounced back and in fact it was quite funny because we couldn't work out if the power had actually gone out or not because all of our lights are on one circuit, so we realised when we tried the oven light.”



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