

# Solar and Battery Installations in Embedded Networks

## A Practical Guide to Energex Solar Connections in Queensland

Prepared by SEAC Energy for residents, body corporates, solar installers, embedded network operators (ENOs) and embedded network managers (ENMs).

### Understanding Embedded Networks

An embedded network is a private electricity network located behind a Parent/Gate meter. Examples include townhouse developments, apartment buildings, retirement villages, lifestyle communities and caravan parks.

Energex treats the parent connection as the primary connection point. This means individual residents cannot directly contract with Energex for solar export approvals.

### Who can apply?

Residents within an embedded network cannot apply directly to Energex. The Embedded Network Owner/Operator (ENO) is the customer of record for the Parent/Gate National Market Identifier (NMI) and must approve and support the connection application.

### The 7 Step Approval Process

#### Step 1 – Obtain Approval

The resident written approval from the Embedded Network Owner/Operator (ENO) and the Body Corporate before proceeding with any solar or battery installation.

#### Step 2 – Engage a Licensed Electrical Contractor

When the resident has received approval from both the ENO and Body Corporate they will engage a licensed electrical contractor or accredited solar installer to assess the proposed installation.

The contractor will prepare the technical design and confirm the information required for the Energex application. Once completed the contractor will submit the application through the Energex Electrical Partners Portal using the Parent/Gate NMI obtained from ENO.

#### Step 3 – Energex will assess Aggregate Capacity

When Energex receives the application they will assess the generation at the parent meter level. Existing solar and battery systems across the community must be included in the total generation calculation.

### Understanding Capacity Thresholds

Up to 30 kVA follows a simplified assessment process. Systems above 30 kVA may require a negotiated connection assessment. Larger systems might require negotiated connection assessments.

Larger systems may require additional protection, engineering studies and network approval.

| Threshold    | Typical Treatment                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Up to 30 kVA | Standard assessment process                   |
| 30–100 kVA   | Technical assessment required                 |
| 100–200 kVA  | Additional engineering requirements may apply |
| >200 kVA     | Detailed network study and protection review  |

### Maximum Solar Size

There is no fixed maximum solar system size within embedded networks. Unlike a standard residential property, Energy will assess generation capacity at the parent/gate meter level. The allowable solar capacity depends on:

- Parent connection capacity
- Existing solar generation within the community
- Site demand and load profile
- Transformer capacity
- Export requirements
- Protection systems
- Local network constraints

Energex can often approve larger systems. However, additional engineering assessment may be required.

### Step 4 – Queensland Grid Compliance

Inverters must comply with AS/NZS 4777 requirements, including Australia A settings, Volt-Var and Vold-Watt responses. Emergency Backstop requirements may require connection capability or a Generation Signalling Device (GSD).

### Step 5 – Connection Offer

Energex issues the Connection Offer to the ENO. The offer must be accepted within 20 business days. Any associated assessment, metering or connection costs should be agreed between the resident and the ENO prior to application.

### Step 6 – Installation and Electrical Work Request (EWR)

When an agreement has been reached by the resident and the ENO, the resident will engage the contractor to install the solar system. The solar installation must comply with AS/NZS 3000 and AS/NZS 4777. When the installation has been completed the contractor must submit and EWR through the Energex Electrical Partners Portal.

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## Step 7 – Metering Approval

The Metering Provider must confirm that the Parent Meter supports bi-directional interval metering before the system can be energised.

## Roles and Responsibilities

| Party                | Responsibility                                                                                           |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Resident             | Request approval from ENO and your Body Corporate before proceeding, then engage an accredited installer |
| Installer            | Technical design and submit application and install equipment                                            |
| ENO / Body Corporate | Approve connection, verify Parent NMI details and accept Energex offer                                   |
| Metering Provider    | Verify bi-directional metering arrangements and export capability                                        |

## Contractor/Body Corporation-Pro Tip

If the embedded network is approaching the 30kVA threshold, consider surveying residents for future solar demand and applying for a larger generation allocation at the parent meter. This may reduce future assessment costs and streamline approvals.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*As a resident in an embedded network can I apply directly to Energex?*

No. Applications are linked to the Parent/Gate NMI and require ENO approval.

*Can I connect solar directly through my meter?*

No. Within an embedded network, Energex assesses solar generation through the parent/gate meter connection rather than individual child meters. Applications therefore require coordination with the Embedded Network Owner/Operator.

*How large can my solar system be?*

There is no single maximum size. Approval depends on site specific factors.

*What happens if the threshold is above 30 KVA?*

The application may move into a negotiated assessment process.

*What is the Emergency Backstop Mechanism?*

This is a Queensland requirement allowing network management during critical events.



## How SEAC Energy can help

SEAC Energy provides specialist support for embedded network communities throughout Queensland, including:

- ✓ Solar and Battery connection assessments
- ✓ Body Corporate and resident liaison
- ✓ Embedded Network compliance advice
- ✓ Energex application management
- ✓ Metering coordination
- ✓ Capacity planning and network studies
- ✓ Resident communication and education
- ✓ Ongoing embedded network management services

## Disclaimer

This guide is provided for general information only and should not be relied upon as legal, engineering or regulatory advice. Energex requirements, Queensland regulations and Australian Standards may change. Always confirm current requirements with Energex and relevant professional advisers.

## Contacting SEAC Energy

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