

Victorian Default Offer 2026–27

Submission received via Engage Victoria on our Request for Comment paper on the 2026–27 Victorian Default Offer

Submission prepared by:



Organisation:

N/A

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Date submitted:

15 November 2025

Free power period tariff

What are your views on the suitability of a regulated residential tariff with a free power period in Victoria?

Good - from the point of view of evening out power demands/ usage.

Bad - from a customer point of view, because in reality it won't be "free" at all. I note that the minister is requesting the consideration of this proposal in the hope it will help minimise costs to consumers, unfortunately it will not achieve this. Even blind Freddie knows that energy retailers (to maintain profits) will be bound to increase kwh rates either side of the 3 hr period.

It should be called the three hour "not free" period.

Summary; the intention is good, but the incentive is wrong. It is misleading, bordering on deceitful, to market this period as being "free", which is something it can never be. Why? Because only a very small percentage of average working households would be able to swap enough of their overall power usage to this midday period to make it financially beneficial.

Footnote; there would also be a small percentage of households who could benefit from a “free” power period. They would typically be retired or work from home people who have the ability to draw very large amounts of energy, even to the point of maxing out their allowable amperage draw to their property. This could be done by turning on home battery charging, car charging, turning up air conditioning/ heating, swimming pool equip etc. An unwanted byproduct would be it would encourage people to be wasteful with energy.

And of course, considering these people would be benefitting from drawing huge amounts of free power, what would the power companies think of that? I think that blind Freddie may have some thoughts on that one too!

So will there be a cap on maximum allowable power draw in that period? If so, forget it! It won't work, it won't save money (at least not for the consumer)

Are there additional safeguards - such as eligibility requirements - that should be implemented before a customer could opt-in to such a product?

It would be very unfair to offer the same opt in option to both solar and non solar households. I and all other solar households invested a lot of money to gain the financial benefits which will come in the long term. If the exact same product at the same price is offered to non solar customers then in effect they are getting the cost benefits from the solar installation that I paid for!

There needs to be more incentive for solar households, which in the long run will encourage more people to go solar, and more people to buy batteries.