



GUIDELINES

Solar Power for Sports Clubs No Interest Loan Program Expression of Interest

The Tasmanian Government is committed to increasing opportunities for all Tasmanians to participate in sport, advancing our renewable energy capability and supporting community action.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Program Outline

During the 2021 State Election the Tasmanian Government committed \$10 million for Tasmanian sports clubs to apply for no interest loans of up to \$20 000, for up to 5 years. The funding is to be made available to approved applicants for the purchase of an accredited solar power system to reduce electricity running costs to the club.

The Solar Power for Sports Clubs – No Interest Loan Program (the Program) aims to offer sports clubs in Tasmania the ability to reduce the electricity costs in the long term and utilise funds normally spent on electricity to sustain other valuable sporting activities.

The program will commence with an expression of interest (EOI) process.

EOI opens 30 September 2021

EOI closes 31 January 2022

EOI notifications 28 February 2022

No EOI will be accepted after the closing dates.

Following the EOI process applicants who meet the eligibility criteria will be required to submit an application form. It is anticipated that applications will open in March 2022.

The total funding available for this program is \$10 million.



Eligibility Criteria

Applicant - who is eligible to apply?

Loan funding will be available to applicants who:

- Hold a valid Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Are located and operate in Tasmania
- Are an organisation recognised by its members as a sports club or is an organisation that's primary purpose is to facilitate sporting activities
- Are the party responsible for the electricity connection at the facility
- Own the facility, or have permission from the owners of the facility, where the solar system is proposed to be installed

Ineligible applicants

The follow applicants are ineligible to apply for a loan under this program:

- Public listed companies
- Local, State or Australian Government agencies unless the facility's, proposed in the application for the installation of a solar system, primary purpose is to house an organisation(s) that facilitates sport activities.

Note: Sport means a human activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or physical skill, which, by its nature and organisation, is competitive and is generally accepted as being a sport.

Expenditure – what can the funds be used for?

Loan funding will be available to:

- Purchase a solar power system this may include one or more of the following items:
 - Solar panel
 - Inverter
 - Solar hot water system
 - Battery storage – specifically designed to store power generated by a solar system
- Increase an existing solar power system's capacity to generate more power (for example add more solar panels)
- Install a solar power system (for more information refer to the 'Additional information' section below).

Note: A solar panel system to be installed must meet the eligibility criteria for small-scale technology certificates as defined by the [Clean Energy Regulator](#). Any associated equipment required for the installation of the solar power system noted above not eligible for small-scale technology certificates must meet Australian and New Zealand standards and comply with local, state, territory and federal requirements including electrical safety.

The solar system must be installed within 6 months of a loan agreement being executed.



Ineligible expenditure – what the funds cannot be used for.

- Upgrades to electricity or site infrastructure unless necessary for the installation of the solar power system.
- Construction, additions or works unless necessary for the installation of the solar power system.
- Any work undertaken that is deemed cosmetic and not required for the installation or optimisation of the solar system.

Additional information

In some instances, the installation of solar systems may require changes to be made to the site such as:

- Upgrading and/or installation of electrical wiring, circuit breakers, isolators and/or meters.
- Improving the structural integrity of the roof or constructing a solid foundation at an appropriate angle to ensure safe and optimal outputs from solar panels.
- Additional structural support, mounting structures and/or minor remodelling to fit solar system requirements.

You may require planning and/or building approvals before proceeding to the solar installation. Consumer, Building and Occupational Services provide important information about building requirements and installing solar panels that can be useful to guide applicants determine what is required when installing solar panels.

[Solar \(cbos.tas.gov.au\)](http://cbos.tas.gov.au)

[Installing solar panels in your home \(cbos.tas.gov.au\)](http://cbos.tas.gov.au)

The [website](#) also includes consumer building information that may be relevant to your situation.

All solar panel installations must be done by a person:

- With a valid unrestricted electrical practitioner licence.
- Who is working under a licensed electrical contractor.

You can find a licensed tradesperson by searching the database on the CBOS [website](#). The electrician installing the panels should have Clean Energy Council accreditation. This is to be eligible for certain Federal Government rebates. Electricians can apply for accreditation with the Clean Energy Council at www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au

It is recommended that all potential applicants considering installation of a solar system research what is required and consider carefully the information provide prior to submitting an application under this program.



How to submit an EOI

As an authorised member of your club committee or board:

1. Read these guidelines and consider the eligibility criteria.
2. Seek advice from the club's legal and financial advisors before submitting an EOI.
3. Discuss the funding options and terms with the club committee or board and gain the appropriate approvals to proceed.
4. Research local solar power system requirements, suppliers and installers and obtain at least two quotes.
5. Contact csrgrants@communities.tas.gov.au or call 1800 204 224 should you have any questions.
6. Go to the Communities Tasmania [website](#) to start your EOI.

Application requirements

As part of the EOI and application process you will be required to submit the following information:

- A copy of the club committee or board minutes approving the decision to proceed with an application for a loan.
- Two quotes from accredited installers - quotes should be detailed and include a proposed system design, expected electricity generation and an itemised list of components/products.
- The last 3 years of audited financials for the club. If audited financials are not available, the provision of the financials submitted to the clubs committee or board are required.

More information on these specific and other requirements will be available on the EOI and application forms.

Note: Applicants are recommended to review the warranty terms carefully before proceeding. Individual products should come with a product manufacturers warranty. In addition, Approved Solar Retailers will offer an additional warranty covering the “whole of system” including workmanship and installation as well as the performance and operation of the system.

Loan terms and interest rates

- The loan funding available is up to \$20 000
- The maximum loan term is 5 years (the term offered will be determined through the assessment process)
- No interest will apply to the loan within the loan term
- Loans are offered on an unsecured basis
- Successful applicants will be required to enter into a loan agreement and complete a direct debit form for loan repayments
- Standard loan repayments will be monthly, however can be negotiated on a case by case basis.

Note: Funding provided to successful applicants will not be available until after 1 July 2022.



Assessment Criteria

EOL's will be assessed in the against the eligibility criteria set out in these guidelines.

EOL's that meet the eligibility criteria will be required to submit an application form and will be assessed against the following assessment criteria.

1. Applicant's ability to repay the loan within a maximum of 5 years, this assessment will include any potential savings to be made from the installation of the solar system.
2. Applicants ability to fund and maintain the solar system as recommended by the installer and in compliance with the system warranties.
3. Evidence of the return on investment through the installation of the solar system.
4. Organisational plan demonstrating a clear strategy for the spots club's continued operation.

The final decision whether to approve a loan is at the full discretion of the delegated authority within Communities Tasmania.

Reports and Documentation

Successful applicants will be required to provide reports and documentation throughout the term of the loan. These reports will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- A copy of the final invoice from the solar retailer and/or installer showing that the full amount of funding provided was used for the approved purpose
- A copy of an electricity bill after the installation of the solar system
- Progress reports and a final report that details
 - the financial savings achieved through the installation of the solar power system
 - any activities that were able to be undertaken with the savings from the solar system.
 - Feedback on any challenges or successes experienced by the sports club as a result of this program

Personal Information

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act 2004. You can request access to your personal information from the Department of Communities Tasmania.

Right to Information

Information provided to the Department of Communities Tasmania is subject to the provisions of the Right to Information Act 2009. You can view the Act in full on the Tasmanian Legislation website www.thelaw.tas.gov.au.