

Case Study - RAAFA Erskine Grove Retirement Village - 299kW



The interesting point about this installation is that it is the first legally installed sub-metered retirement village in Perth.

Prior to the installation of this system many sub-metered retirement villages had solar installed in ways that were non compliant and in breach of Western Power's rules. Due to the way sub metering sites are wired there is normally only one connection point to the grid. Therefore solar PV systems installed individually on sub metered units are considered collectively when connected to the grid at the one point of connection.

The 197 units at RAAFA Erskine Grove are each connected to their own sub meter. However as the village had only one Western Power meter (attached to the grid). Western Power looked at the systems as a collective whole.

Although the installation comprises 197 units with 1.5kW solar PV on each unit Western Power deem the size of the installation as 299kW. As a result Solargain was required to engage the services of an experienced electrical engineer to assist in creating a compliant system design that would control and manage all 197 units.

Even though this was the first time that this had been conducted the system design, grid connection approval and installation were all completed on time and within budget.

The residents have been so satisfied with Solargain's assistance that we are now working with them on a project that will potentially replace their existing solar hot water systems.

The systems installed comprise 8 x 190W Hanwha panels and 1 x 1.5kW Macsolar inverter.

Project Overview

Location: Erskine, WA

System size: 299kW

Roof Fixing Method: Flush mounted to the pitched tile roofs

Products: - 1576 x 190W Hanwha SolarOne panels
- 197 x 1.5kW Macsolar inverters

Annual Energy Production: 432MWh approximately

Annual Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction:
2.01 tonnes CO₂ per house

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"I just wanted to send you a personal note to thank you for all your extraordinary efforts to get our solar panels up and running. It has been a long and difficult project!! One from which I know we have all learnt a lot.

Please pass on my thanks to all your staff , and consultants, who were involved (and those who are still here!) May I also take the opportunity to wish you , your family and all the staff at SOLARGAIN a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy new year."

Denise Nicolay
Chairperson - Residents Liaison Committee
RAAFA WA Erskine Grove Estate

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