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### Battery pilot is a positive move

Eligible residents in the 3228 and 3217 postcodes can take advantage of a valuable opportunity to be part of a battery rebate pilot program.

Launched on 1 July 2019, the Victorian Government scheme is offering 1,000 rebates of up to $4,838 for a solar battery system. The battery rebates are for people in designated growth suburbs who have already installed solar panels but have not accessed a solar rebate.

Councillor Margot Smith is a member of Council’s Renewable Energy Taskforce, which has established the Powered by Positive program. It is helping empower Surf Coast residents and small businesses to take action, use less energy and consider taking up renewable energy.

“The battery rebate pilot program presents an incredible opportunity for people who live in Torquay, Bellbrae, Bells Beach, Jan Juc or Freshwater Creek,” Cr Smith said.

“According to Solar Victoria, installing a battery can help a typical household save up to $640 a year on energy costs.  
  
“If you live in one of the eligible areas, have already installed solar panels and you’ve been considering complementing them with a solar battery system, now is a great time to look further into it.”

Battery storage allows people to capture any excess energy that solar panels are producing during the day, rather than send it back into the grid. The energy is then stored and can be utilised when the solar panels aren’t operating or more energy is being consumed than can be generated.

There will be 1,000 rebates of up to $4,838 available in 2019-20 for a solar battery system. For the full eligibility criteria and application process, visit [**www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-battery-rebate**](http://www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-battery-rebate).“While a potential half-price discount is significant, a battery is a big investment so I encourage people to do their research so they can understand exactly what they need,” Cr Smith.

The Powered by Positive program offers free, simple advice on how people can take action to reduce energy use. From selecting a solar supplier to draught-proofing your home, visit [**www.poweredbypositive.com.au**](http://www.poweredbypositive.com.au) to learn more.

**Not for publication:**



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