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## Family of 12 slashes \$1,000 electricity bill to zero as solar battery discounts confirmed

Sydney man David Sellen has installed three solar batteries at his home and has seen his electricity bill go down considerably.



Tamika Seeto · Finance Reporter  
Updated 7 April 2025 · 5 min read



David Sellen said the electricity savings meant he didn't have to worry about getting a "huge" bill each quarter. - Source: Supplied

A Sydney dad has shared how he has more than halved his electricity bill and expects his next bill will be nothing. Demand for solar batteries is expected to soar over the coming year, with the federal government announcing discounts on batteries and states also introducing rebates on installation costs.

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David Sellen recently installed three solar batteries on his four-bedroom family home in Horsley Park in Sydney's south-west, having previously installed solar panels on the roof. The 68-year-old told *Yahoo Finance* his family were "big power users" with up to a dozen people regularly at home at any one time across his three adult kids, partners and six grandkids.

"In the last few years, the price of electricity has gone through the roof, so I decided I'd better do something, especially if I'm going to retire. I don't want to be spending \$1,000 per quarter on electricity," he said.

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USD/AUD	-0.0008 (-0.12%)
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Woolworths Group L...	-0.12 (-0.43%)
CBA.AX	166.08
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Philippines

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Sellen, who works two days a week in design technology, said it cost \$12,000 to install two 10.1 kWh solar batteries at the end of last year.

He received a discount from the state government for the batteries. Then, he said the two batteries had "more than halved" his electricity bill.

He installed a third battery a few weeks ago for \$5,000 and expects his next bill will be "nothing" or he may get a "small credit".



Sellen had solar panels on his home for years and recently installed solar batteries. - Source: Supplied

"I've noticed with the third battery on, in the morning even after I've used the hot water overnight, I've still got about 75 per cent battery life left," he said.

"It's made a huge difference on how much electricity I still have in the batteries. I can comfortably use the stove, use the coffee machine and put the dryer on and know that I'm not using power out of the grid.

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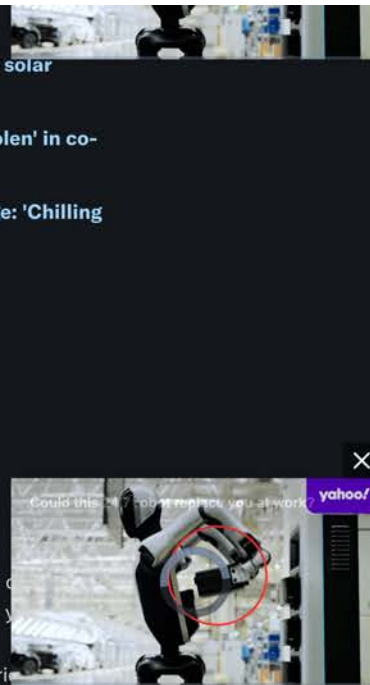
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"That's a saving of \$4,000 a year, \$1,000 every quarter, so I reckon to four years it will all be paid for by itself."

### Households getting \$2,000 in relief

NSW households can get an upfront discount when installing solar batteries, something Sellen was able to take advantage of.





Since the incentive was launched in November, the state government said more than 7,800 batteries had been installed.

The discount depends on the size of the battery, with a typical 13.5 kW battery able to get \$2,000 off.

"More than a third of NSW homes already have rooftop solar, and now we're helping thousands of them connect a battery so they can store the energy produced when the sun is up, and use it around the clock," Premier Chris Minns said.

Story continues

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Treasurer Jim Chalmers is spearheading Labor's proposed super tax. Picture: NewsWire / Martin Ollman

Labor considering tweaks to its proposed super tax is "proof" the policy is "deeply flawed", according to the opposition.

The proposal to slap an extra 15 per cent tax on super balances north of \$3m has sparked backlash from many, with critics decrying it as a tax on paper profits.

Others have also warned that, without indexation, it would penalise younger generations.



ANZ has revealed 3,500 staff will lose their jobs over the next 12 months. (Source: Getty)

ANZ has announced it will cut 3,500 jobs by September 2026 and slash its use of consultants and third parties, impacting around 1,000 contractors. The major restructure was confirmed by new chief Nuno Matos, following hints of job cuts last week.

The Big Four bank said the changes were to "simplify the bank, its focus on its priorities and deliver for its customers". It's expected to cost \$560 million before tax.



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Matos said this would be “difficult news” for some of its staff and noted some of the changes had already commenced, with the bank “committed to working through the impacts as quickly and safely” as it could.

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“We are operating in a rapidly evolving and highly competitive banking environment,” Matos said.

“As we continue our strategic review, we are eliminating duplication and complexity, stopping work that doesn’t support our priorities and sharpening our focus on improving our non-financial risk management practices across the bank.”



The bank noted it would provide a “comprehensive support program” for impacted staff, including individual support, career advice and planning support services, and access to a career training fund.

It comes after some senior staff found out about their redundancies through an accidental automated email telling them to return their laptops.

The bank was forced to apologise for the mistake.

#### ANZ slammed over move

The Finance Sector Union has criticised the major bank over the move, calling it “out of control”.

“ANZ is betraying 3,500 workers in one of the world’s most profitable banking sectors, cutting jobs simply to chase even bigger profits,” President Wendy Streets said.

“This is out of control — it’s not strategy, it’s unhinged.”



“When the FSU asked ANZ who will actually do the work of the 3,500 sacked staff, the bank had no answer, except to say the work will simply



stop. That's not a plan, that's chaos."


Matos took over from former chief executive Shayne Elliott in May this year, flagging a broader cultural overhaul and pushing to create an efficient bank.

ANZ has a larger global workforce than Westpac and NAB, despite being the smallest of the major banks.

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NewsWire

## 'Proof': Labor lashed for super tax tweaks

Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

Tue 9 September 2025 at 12:43 pm GMT+8 • 2 min read



Treasurer Jim Chalmers is spearheading Labor's proposed super tax. Picture: NewsWire / Martin Ollman

Labor considering tweaks to its proposed super tax is "proof" the policy is "deeply flawed", according to the opposition.

The proposal to slap an extra 15 per cent tax on super balances north of \$3m has sparked backlash from many, with critics decrying it as a tax on paper profits.

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Others have also warned that, without indexation, it would penalise younger generations.



But it was revealed last week that the government was considering changes, including indexation.

Shadow assistant treasurer Pat Conaghan said on Tuesday it only showed the Coalition was right that "this tax was unfair, unworkable, and completely out of touch".

"Labor's retreat shows they're feeling the heat – but this isn't a just needs some cosmetic fixes," Mr Conaghan said in a statement.

"Taxing unrealised gains is fundamentally wrong, and it should be scrapped out entirely."



Treasurer Jim Chalmers is spearheading Labor's proposed super tax. Picture: NewsWire / Martin Ollman

He went on to call it a "slow-motion tax trap" for future generations.

"As wages and inflation rise, more and more ordinary workers will be dragged into Labor's tax net," he said.

"The people that will be hit hardest are the youngest Australians, who are just starting to save for their retirement today."



"This is tax by stealth on the next generation."

Labor took the policy to the federal election in May when it decimated the Coalition.

According to Treasury estimates, the tax in its current form would bring in about \$2.7bn into Commonwealth coffers.





The revenue is much needed, as governments across the world to broaden their tax base in response to seismic economic shifts.

With only half a per cent of Australians – some 80,000 – holding super balances higher than \$3m, surveys have consistently found most voters back a higher tax on super.

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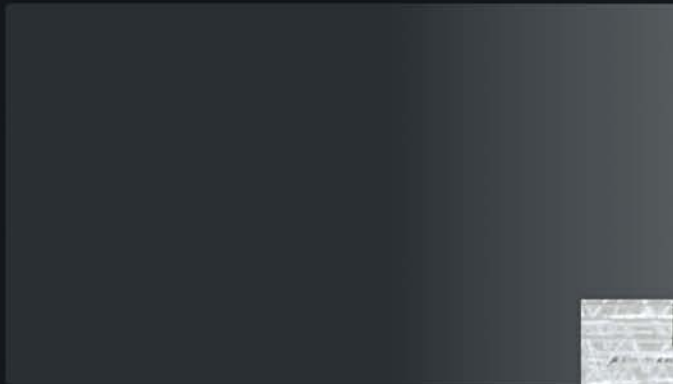


NewsWire

## Major update after AusPost bombshell

Hannah Moore and Andrew Hedgman

Tue 9 September 2025 at 1:39 pm GMT+8 • 3 min read



Australia Post will resume delivery to the US by September 25. Picture: NCA NewsWire / Christian Gilles

Australia Post will resume deliveries to the United States on or September 25, after major changes to import tariff and customs sparked an extraordinary halt.

The suspension, which began on August 26, affected Business Contract, MyPost Business and retail customers, though gifts valued under USD\$100, letters, and documents were exempt.

In a statement on Tuesday morning, Australia Post confirmed it with Zonos, an authorised US Customs and Border Protection and Universal Postal Union third-party provider, to meet the new requirements and allow deliveries to resume.

"Along with more than 190 other postal providers internationally, we've been caught in a fast-moving situation not of our making," AusPost executive Gary Starr said.





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