



Media release

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Renewables miss out in the budget but Illawarra businesses turning to solar to save and invest in new business initiatives

Renewable energy has missed out in the Federal budget but local businesses in the Illawarra region are investing in solar technology to save on power bills, reduce their carbon footprint and use the savings to innovate and improve their business model.

Thomas Bell, Sales Director of world-leading solar solutions provider Energus, sees the lack of support as a missed opportunity. He commented that businesses in the area are rapidly embracing solar which is the world's cheapest form of energy.

Bell said, " We have seen a huge increase in interest from businesses wishing to invest in solar and most of these are outside the CBD."

One such business is Cooks Confectionery, based in Albion Park, founded in 1986 and taken over by Daniel Lezcano and his brother Ruben in 2006. Now one of Australia's leading confectionery companies, Cooks' Confectionery supplies premium quality chocolate, toffee and nut products to wholesalers, supermarkets, convenience stores, service stations and other retail outlets in all states.

Energus is a world-leading solar-solutions provider which has helped over 200 businesses, schools and community organisations across NSW install solar energy systems in the last 5 years. Six of these organisations are in the Illawarra area with Cooks Confectionery's results showing that savings due to solar energy can make manufacturing more efficient and lead to increased productivity.

In July 2020, Cooks' Confectionery engaged Energus to install a 70kw solar energy system on the roof of its 1000 M² property, which led to a huge reduction in energy costs, enabling the company to double its shifts.

Even with the introduction of the second shift and operations spanning from 6 am to 10 pm, the company's energy bill stayed the same, thereby saving them \$10K/quarter.



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“We effectively doubled production without increasing our energy costs,” said Cooks’ Managing Director, Daniel Lezcano.

Given that the production of chocolate is high in energy use with the need to refine it for 10-12 hours, motors on for the same amount of time and heaters working for 24 hours, Lezcano said it was a no-brainer to look at installing solar to reduce Cooks’ energy bill. The availability of STCs (small-scale technology certificates) was an added incentive.

According to Energus, the 52.2MWh of energy produced in the first 6 months since installation is enough to dry 49,671 kilos of laundry or to boil 645,230 litres of water.

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About Energus

Energus is the Australian arm of Sunman Energy; a technology company founded by a group of industry veterans delivering the future of Solar. Through the research and development of composite materials, Sunman has successfully commercialized the world's first glass-free, lightweight, and flexible Panel – eArc. Replacing glass completely, eArc brings solar power to markets and applications scenarios that were previously impossible.

About Cooks Confectionery

Cooks Confectionery, based in Albion Park near Shellharbour in NSW, was founded in 1986 and taken over by Daniel Lezcano and his brother Ruben in 2006. Now one of Australia’s leading confectionery companies, the company supplies premium quality chocolate, toffee and nut products to wholesalers, supermarkets, convenience stores, service stations and other retail outlets in all states.

For media interviews or information:

Lyn Tuit, Momentum2

Email: Ltuit@momentum2.com.au | **Mobile:** 0405 160 275