

Climate change is causing more frequent, intense, prolonged and destructive weather events such as heatwaves, severe storms, floods and bushfires. The past few years in Australia has shown that we cannot always rely on rapid assistance from outside in times of crisis.

What can households, small businesses and communities do to improve their own energy resilience? Here are some ideas.

INCREASING YOUR ENERGY RESILIENCE

- 1** Use a plug-in energy meter, or look at the energy efficiency label of appliances, to understand how much energy your appliances need, and decide which ones will be the most important to keep operating during a long blackout.
- 2** Buy a windup or solar powered combined torch, radio and battery, so you can stay in touch with the outside world (including charging your mobile phone).
- 3** Have a backup source of electricity (such as a portable power station) ready, or some alternative appliances that don't need grid electricity to operate (eg solar hot water systems and cookers).
- 4** If you are able to buy a home battery to store rooftop solar energy, make sure it can also operate as a backup power supply.
- 5** If you are thinking of buying an electric vehicle, think about getting one which can power plug-in appliances ("vehicle to load" or V2L).
- 6** Talk to your neighbours and local council about what community facilities are critical to keep operating during blackouts (eg, evacuation centres, health services, emergency services, general stores, and petrol and EV charging stations), and how this might be achieved.
- 7** Practice what you would do in an emergency, and make sure that your equipment is working safely and is charged or otherwise ready for use at short notice.



PORTABLE POWER STATION

WIND-UP
RADIO



SOLAR
KETTLE



PLUG IN
ENERGY
METER



EV WITH VEHICLE TO LOAD ADAPTER



PORTABLE BATTERY PACK,
TORCH & SOLAR CHARGER



PORTABLE SOLAR
CHARGER



ENERGY RATING LABEL
SHOWING ANNUAL
CONSUMPTION