

# CASE STUDY

## Sirromet Wines



### BACKGROUND


Sirromet Wines, is a five star winery located on a picturesque 100 hectare property outside of Brisbane. The property has a number of barrel rooms, storage rooms, offices and fridges all of which require a large amount of energy to run.

In order to reduce these operating costs Energy Action, (ASX: EAX) a leading provider of innovative energy procurement, contract management & energy reporting, and sustainability solutions for Australian businesses, has engineered a 200-kilowatt solar power solution for Sirromet.

### OPPORTUNITY

Alex Sey, Sirromet Operations Manager, said plans for the solar power system were initiated about 18 months ago as part of Sirromet's ongoing efforts to make its operations as environmentally sustainable as possible, and followed a carbon emissions audit of the company.

“We started going down the Solar route because it's better for the environment, plus we have equipment unique to a winery that uses high volumes of power,” said Sey.



“We think the savings realised for Sirromet Wines will pave the way for more Australian businesses to seriously consider solar as an alternative power source to reduce their energy usage & costs and make their operations more energy efficient”

Edward Hanna, Strategy & Business Integration Director.

The 200-kilowatt solar power system incorporates a total of 800 Photovoltaic (PV) individual solar panels, each rated at 250-watts.

“This is one of the biggest solar power systems of its type in Queensland for a private company such as ours. You could run power for 40 to 50 medium-to-large family homes with 200-kilowatts”.

Energy Action was the project manager for the solar power solution at the winery’s property. “Our focus is on ensuring that customers understand and size both the risks and the rewards of their solar investment for their business, before they commit their capital to energy cost savings,” said Edward Hanna, Strategy & Business Integration Director, Energy Action.

## OUTCOME

This new system cost approximately \$400,000, with the expense of Sirromet offset by a grant of close to \$200,000 from the former Labor Government’s Clean Technology Investment Program.

“It will save us about \$50,000 a year, or 20-percent of our power costs, and benefit the environment by reducing our annual carbon emissions by more than 400 tonnes” said Sey.

“We think the savings realised for Sirromet Wines will pave the way for more Australian businesses to seriously consider solar as an alternative power source to reduce their energy usage & costs and make their operations more energy efficient” said Edward Hanna.

Sirromet, since opening in 2000, has won a total of 42 gold medals in Australia and overseas for its wines. It has 100-hectares of vineyards at Ballandean on the Granite Belt, and a further eight-hectares at Mount Cotton. Gold Coast businessman Terry Morris is the owner and founder.



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Alex Sey, Operations Manager  
Sirromet Wines