

Solar for large business

Country road group goes solar



Country Road Group is one of Australia's largest fashion retailers with a market leading position in the mid to upper tier of specialty fashion. Comprising four iconic brands – Country Road, Mimco, Trenery and Witchery, each brand has its own inspiring story to tell.

Why did they decide to go solar?

In 2014 the Country Road Group was constructing a new national distribution centre at Truganina, Victoria with completion planned for late 2015. A key challenge of the centre was to go solar to save on electricity costs and be rated as a '5 Star Green Star' building.

This decision supported the Group's overall commitment towards sustainability, and driving positive social and environmental change throughout its operations and supply chain.

A 300kW solar system was installed, comprising 1,200 solar panels with a total panel area of 1,972m².

How they went solar

They ran a competitive tender process where large industry solar experts were asked to develop a solar solution based on the energy requirements of their planned distribution centre in Melbourne. A large solar power system was required to achieve a '5 Star Green Star – Industrial As Built v1' rating from the Green Building Council of Australia. The system was to be installed as part of the construct phase of their distribution centre.

Origin won the tender by providing the most effective bespoke solar solution, and undertaking a detailed analysis to provide estimates of potential energy savings.

“The selection criteria for a suitable provider took into account a range of factors, which included quality and performance, experience, attention to safety, and ability to meet an aggressive building schedule, amongst other considerations”, Country Road Group reported.

“Origin Energy has a strong reputation in their field, but importantly demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and experience, and maintained a flexible and accommodating approach during the entire process.”



The construction process

One of the key challenges of the solar installation was the ability for us to complete the installation within project construction timelines.

The Country Road Group National Distribution Centre was a 'greenfields' development requiring careful coordination with other trades on-site to meet construction timelines. The installation process was undertaken carefully to ensure timely delivery of goods and materials, while also dealing with a number of unforeseen challenges along the way. With engineering ingenuity, we were able to overcome these challenges with innovative and intelligent solutions.

In addition to the installation, we assisted the company with an initial grid electricity retail contract, including the purchase of exported solar electricity and assisted in the registration of the system in order for Large Scale Generated certificates to be created by them.

"The team worked well with the principal builders and delivered a quality solution, in a challenging time frame. Post installation, they continued to demonstrate their commitment, with constant monitoring and improvement enhancements, which have allowed our energy targets to exceed initial expectations."

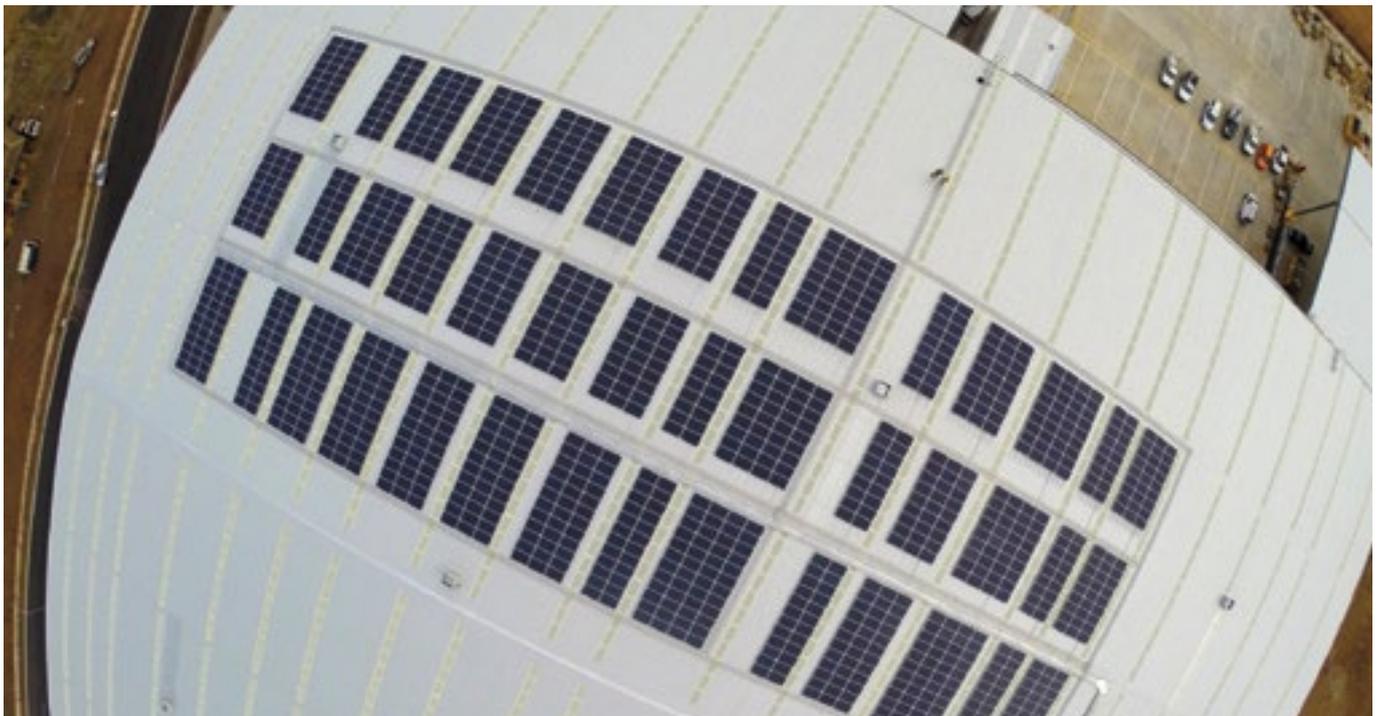
The outcome

A 300kW solar system was installed, comprising 1,200 solar panels with a total panel area of 1,972m². The installation was conducted in conjunction with other trades work being completed at the time.

Country Road Group's solar PV system is expected to produce around 403,600 kWh of electricity annually, reducing carbon emissions by 541 tonnes of CO₂-e/year¹.

"The team worked well with the principal builders and delivered a quality solution, in a challenging time frame. Post installation, they continued to demonstrate their commitment, with constant monitoring and improvement enhancements, which have allowed our energy targets to exceed initial expectations."

¹Avoided electricity emissions calculated using the National Greenhouse Accounts Factors (2014) for Grid Electricity Emissions in Victoria (1.34 kg CO₂-e/kWh).



Contact us

If you're interested in finding a solar solution that's right for your business, chat to one of our experts today on **1300 134 138**.

