

Solar and Belongil

A perfect marriage



The Belongil is a café, restaurant and wedding venue quite unlike any other. Nestled on a beach-side in Byron Bay's tranquil suburb of Belongil, this premium venue is known for its exceptional hospitality and friendly service. Whether it's hosting a couple's special day or opening their doors to the public for a delicious meal, The Belongil has become an integral part of this community.

Why was solar the right partner for the Belongil?

Restaurants use a lot of energy, mainly from refrigeration, and by opening 7 days a week, business owner Christian Poulsen knew to keep his business costs down he'd have to find a way to reduce his electricity bills. Solar seemed a good option. It looked like it could keep costs down – but also be good for the community, being the most 'natural' option.

Christian didn't want to be fully reliant on the grid, and wanted to take advantage of the abundant natural resources in this beautiful part of the world. In 2017 Christian made the decision to switch to solar. **"Living in Byron Bay, we're lucky to have an abundance of sun, so installing solar panels was a no-brainer – not only is it good for the planet, the annual energy cost savings make good financial sense from a business perspective."** For Christian sustainability simply means, **"Preserving the planet for future generations, reversing the damage done already, while maintaining public integrity."**

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The Belongil in Byron Bay

Three reasons it was going to last...

Choosing to install solar is a significant capital decision for any business, and Mr. Poulsen needed to make sure he was making the right choice for his. He breaks down the three reasons why he chose to go with Origin: **"Premium equipment, an interest-free repayment plan, and a 10-year warranty with confidence that Origin will still exist in the future."**

With Origin being a trusted and experienced solar provider, and offering a 24-month interest-free payment plan, The Belongil was given the flexibility they needed to start saving and working in a more sustainable way. It was the beginning of a great partnership.

Still together

In 2017 The Belongil installed a 16kW Origin solar system comprising 26 panels. Poulsen describes his install process with Origin as “**efficient and effective.**” The cost-saving benefits soon became apparent for The Belongil as the venue’s electricity bills were reduced by 65 percent, delivering annual savings of about \$6,000. Better still, the solar system at The Belongil produces around 23,000kWh of electricity annually, reducing carbon emissions by an estimated 16.3 tons of CO2 each year – the equivalent offset by about 19.1 acres of forest*. Poulsen added, “**During the repayment schedule, the cost of the system was less than the equivalent we would have spent on electricity from the grid. Now the system is paid for, our electricity from the grid is a far easier amount for us to manage. The system has been so effective, I put an Origin 6kw system on my house. My bills at home are now close to zero in summer, even with a large family**”.

The Belongil has taken serious strides to control their energy needs while also taking responsibility for its impact on the planet – and they’re looking forward to being together with Origin for many years to come.



A peaceful view of the beach from the venue



Weddings at The Belongil

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* The US EPA greenhouse gas equivalency calculator: www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator

Want to know more?

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

originenergy.com.au/business/solar