

Newcastle French Hot Bread

Newcastle French Hot Bread joined Energy Hunter in April 2013. As a busy bakery and cafe, owners Lika and Damian were keen to learn how to reduce their energy bills.

After site visits from Energy Hunter, the bakery developed an action plan to gradually implement improvements. This included maintenance and replacement of seals on the oven doors, placing their electric storage hot water system onto an off-peak timer, upgrading their fluorescent lighting to LED, and separating light circuits onto different switches so that they could turn off sections of lights when not required. A bill analysis undertaken by Energy Hunter also identified significant billing errors and overcharging that had occurred over a 5 year period.

After the retailer failed to rectify the issue, Lika and Damian took their complaint to the NSW Energy and Water Ombudsman and with the assistance of Energy Hunter were able to recover over \$30,000 from their energy retailer. The bill analysis also showed that significantly better electricity rates were available and after switching energy providers, Newcastle French Hot Bread were able to reduce their monthly electricity bill by approximately \$1,000 a month.

With the refund from their previous electricity provider and their big reduction in monthly electricity bills, Lika and Damian were able to implement all the projects on their list to achieve ongoing energy savings. They are now looking at whether installing Solar PV will be a good option for their business.

Established as an exclusive bread shop in Newcastle, Newcastle French Hot Bread provides a range of bakery products, made fresh on the premises daily.