

**Submission to the Senate Committee on the Renewable Energy (Electricity)
Amendment (Feed- In- Tariff) Bill 2008.**

I have a home in the ACT with a Grid Connected Solar Electricity system installed. It was installed to offset the amount of greenhouse gas emitted during the production of electricity to our home, and currently is a 1400W system, generating between 44 and 50% of our electricity consumed. This is relatively high percentage as we have also installed a gas boosted solar Hot Water System, improved the house insulation, and installed double glazing. Our cooking is also solely gas sourced, and our home EER was 4.0 (at purchase), and has been subsequently increased. The house is 18 years old.

In an attempt to reduce our net electricity consumption to zero, we intend to expand our system to between 2800W, and 4200W. To make this a cost effective exercise, we would be reliant on qualifying for the proposed Feed-In-Tariff(FIT) proposed under this Bill; or we would be reliant on the existing ACT FIT legislation to remain legally valid subsequent to this Bill being passed.

As the Bill is presently written:

- we would not be a qualifying generator for the FIT, as our system is already installed. There is therefore no incentive for us to expand or invest in additional generating capacity.
- self reporting of power units generated per year may be open to fraudulent returns.
- Auditing the veracity of these returns to satisfy the Auditor Generals Department would be an unnecessary administrative overhead for the Regulator, and an unnecessary cost to the tax payer.

I would recommend that:

- existing generators of electricity below 10kW be included as a qualifying generator.
- the tariff be paid in line with the current electricity retailers billing period, not annually, as the consumer has to carry the cost of the finance for the investment of the solar system for each trailing 1 year period.
- the electricity retailer to report the annually generated number of units, but be reimbursed per each billing period within 30 days of paying each qualifying generator.
- payment of the tariff to the qualifying generator to be through their electricity retailers supply agreement and existing billing processes.
- that the feed-in-tariff adopted in the initial year of operation be not less than that in the ACT - Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Bill 2008

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Fordyce