

The Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts,
PO Box 6100 Parliament House,
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

By email to: eca.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear sir/madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issue of feed in tariffs for electricity generated with clean, green, renewable technologies.

Since the Rudd government has chosen to abolish the \$8,000 rebate for the installation of renewable energy systems for households earning more than \$100,000 / annum, feed in tariffs are the only incentive left likely to encourage widespread adoption.

Although I installed a grid connected PV system before the new arrangements took affect, I was dismayed by the change in policy. It is – or was – the middle class that would drive the demand for PV systems and this policy has put a considerable brake on that potential demand.

It is downright appalling that the government has chosen to withdraw its support for something so sorely needed. I believe there is clear evidence that the majority of Australians want greenhouse gas emission reduced and want to play a part in this. Governments should facilitate this, not make it more difficult. By default, the new policy is giving further support to the fossil fuel sector and does nothing to even up a very tilted playing field.

I applaud the initiative shown by Sen Christine Milne with her private members Bill on feed in tariffs. In my opinion, she is one of very few politicians who grasps the full implications of the challenges of climate change.

The Queensland government has introduced a policy of feed in tariffs and proposes to pay suppliers approximately three times the amount charged to consumers per kilowatt hour. I wait with bated breath to see what this will actually achieve. The policy talks about suppliers being paid for the 'excess electricity' their PV systems produce. It suggests the policy makers do not fully understand how such systems work!

Every electron my PV system generates goes into the local grid and is measured by my meter. If I switch on a light or other appliance, some electrons do a u-turn and come back in, measured by my meter. There IS no 'excess'.

We need national leadership on this and a consistent approach across all jurisdictions. Feed in tariffs are an important part of a much needed new policy framework. I commend Sen. Milne's outstanding work and hope that her parliamentary colleagues will see fit to support it.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Moles