

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008

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Submission from:

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I submit that for a feed in tariff (FIT) to be effective it is vitally important that the following be incorporated into the design of the regime.

GROSS GENERATION – the ability of a homeowner who has installed a grid connect photovoltaic system (GCPVS) on their home to benefit from a FIT may be severely limited if the FIT is paid only on net export. A person working at home or a young family will have a load curve very different to a household where the occupants are not at home during the day. The support to the grid provided by each is no different however. A gross FIT would ensure all owners of a GCPVS are treated equitably.

OPEN TO ALL – limiting the FIT to the small residential sector will reduce the likelihood of commercial and community organisations installing a GCPVS and, consequently, the opportunity to increase the extent to which PV can be called upon to reduce the strain experienced by the grid when seeking to accommodate summer peaks will be lost.

THE RATE – the FIT should not be a specific rate to be paid per kWh generated. Rather it should be a premium to paid in addition to the tariff being charged for consumption. This will ensure that competition between electricity retailers will be maintained and the worth of the FIT is not diminished over time.

TASMANIA – unlike mainland states, Tasmania experiences its peak loads primarily in the winter rather than the summer. In spite of this it is equally as important for Tasmania to embrace a FIT as it is for mainland states. The Basslink interconnector enables a Tasmanian GCPVS to help offset summer peaks experienced on the mainland. All states should be encouraged to agree to the adoption of an harmonised FIT at the earliest opportunity.