

Submission to the renewable energy (electricity) amendment (feed in traiff) bill
2008

Att: Senate committee

We run a small Electrical/ Solar business here in Perth WA which supplies & installs
Grid connected Solar Power Generation Systems

We were one of the first few companies within Australia that installed a grid
connected system on our own private residence back in 2000 which received the
then rebate grant of \$8,250.00. Since then we have seen the rebate drop down to
\$4,000 then up to \$8,000 for a short while and now being means tested at \$100,000
for family income. With this & the lack of a National Gross Feed in Tariff it is
making this industry very unstable.

It is hereby that I recommend the government adopt a Gross Feed In Tariff
for Residential, Community & the Business sectors. Over a period of time and with
the correct setup rate for feed in tariffs the current rebate many be down sized, so as
the industry can become self sustainable. With a company likes ours, where we have
invested heavy in plant, equipment, employment of apprentices & continuing training
of our personal, to keep up with this new solar industry it is vital that this feed in tariff
gets passed nationally.

The rate will need to be set high enough to encourage people to install PV systems &
also to upgrade any existing systems if required. I think that the payment for feed in
tariff should partly come from charging higher for standard rates once over a certain
amount of units of electricity / day is used.

eg, this could be done on a sliding scale bases for households (0 - 10 units rate "A",
cheaper rate than existing flat rate, 10 - 20 units rate "B" ,higher than existing, 20 - 40
unit rate "C". 30 - 60 unit rate "D" & over 60 unit/day rate "E" higher again), this will
not only help fund the Gross Feed In Tariff, but also help in reducing current energy
usage, as households will soon realise the impact financially if power is wasted.
Business will need to be taken in consideration with regards to the sliding scale rate.
The above sliding scale rate would be no harder to administrate than the existing
Smart Power Metering system where there are off peak, on peak, weekdays , weekend
& shoulder rates.

It is also important that existing PV system install prior to any Feed In Tariff start
period be included within this amendment & not like the current Renewable Energy
Certificate (REC) scheme where systems prior to 2005 where not included, this does
not reward any persons that have done the correct thing for the environment in the
past.

We would be very grateful to be selected to appear at any senate hearings

Kind Regards
Brian Jones.
Switched-On Electrical/ Solar