

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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As the Senate you make decisions for the people of Australia. Therefore your decisions on these matters should be made for the people of Australia and should not be influenced by anyone in either Government. I have been watching both Governments and I can honestly say that neither Governments have been in touch with the following matters concerning the Renewable Energy of this country.

The Means Test

The Means Test is such a backward step it is unbelievable that anyone could even have thought of it, let alone suggested it. You need incentives for people that have the money to install these Solar systems, because if these people take up the incentives then the price of these Solar systems come down, which in turn become more affordable to people in the lower income bracket to be able to purchase them, (it's a no brainer isn't it). Therefore the Senate Committee should recommend abolish the Means Test.

Feed-in-Tariff

As you can see below (Queensland prices) there is not much of an incentive for the majority of people that are on Gross Metering.

Gross Metering: 20ckw (QLD)
Net Metering: 44ckw (QLD until 2028)
Retail Tariff: 14.05ckw (Green power QLD)

What I would like to see the Senate look at is some sort of compromise between Net and Gross Metering to keep both the Electricity Retailers and the Solar Producers happy. Something like a Gross Meter rate of 2 times the Retail Tariff, this way as the Retail Tariff goes up then the Gross Tariff goes up as well no matter how much the increase.

Why I suggest Gross Metering is that if you say to people you will get 2 times back what you pay for electricity for every kilowatt you produce then people see that as a very viable investment. With increases likely in the near future Gross Metering will fall behind which then makes the Solar system non viable to run and who would produce electricity for no return.

If the rate is too low then there is no encouragement for people to buy and if it is too high then you can get a backlash from the Electricity Retailers etc.

I myself would be happy with getting twice the value of the Retail Tariff because at the moment I

am on Gross Metering but if the Retail price increases to or over the Gross Metering price then it becomes non viable to me to run the Solar system because I will not let Solar back into the Grid if I am not compensated for it as I feel that this would be stealing electricity from me, so I would prefer to shut the system off before that happens. Wouldn't that be a waste of money?

Regards
Zelko Persic