

**Submission to the Senate Committee
Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed in Tariff) Bill 2008
Inquiry:**

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We fully support the Senate Environment Committee Inquiry into Renewable Energy Amendment (Feed In Tariff) Bill.

The following points outline the reasons why we believe the introduction of a Feed In Tariff is vital for the continuing and essential growth in the installation of Small Generation Units using renewable energy sources, by households, community groups and businesses.

- Changes in the government's rebate program and the level of funds allocated to the program since it was first introduced, have created uncertainty both within the solar industry and for potential solar "customers".
- It is difficult for those within the industry to confidently invest in their business when there are such fluctuations in the level of government support given.
- Our industry needs long term commitments, openly and clearly expressed, rather than having to "second guess" the governments' next moves with regard to supporting the uptake of small electricity generation units using renewable energy sources..
- Our preference would be for the government to transition from a rebate arrangement to a nationally consistent gross feed in tariff, open to all sectors: residential, commercial, industrial and government.
- **Such a tariff would make installing SGU's using renewable energy sources much more economically viable and would greatly increase the ability of individuals, community groups and businesses to make this environmentally important commitment.**

Thus, we strongly urge the Australian Government to adopt a gross FIT for solar PV with the following features:

GROSS GENERATION – that is, the feed in tariff applies to all the electricity generated from the solar PV system NOT just the electricity that is surplus and exported to the grid.

OPEN TO ALL SECTORS and UNCAPPED– that is, the scheme applies to all sectors not just the residential market and is not capped in terms of system size or programme. Supermarkets, factories, distribution centres, libraries, office buildings, swimming pool centres, churches should all be encouraged to invest in a solar PV system and be rewarded when they do.

PAYBACK – The FIT is set at a level that will provide a payback on the capital investment within ten years.

LONG TERM – The scheme should guarantee payments for 20 years and be open to applications for 20 years

We believe that the introduction of solar PV gross feed in tariffs would be consistent with the government's overall carbon emissions management plan and would greatly enhance the Australian community's ability to make significant contributions to lowering our carbon emissions through the widespread use of solar electricity generation.

We encourage the government to act decisively and with integrity in this matter and not to be unduly influenced by the considerations of those who stand to gain by the continued reckless generation of electricity by coal fired power stations.

Thank you for considering this submission,
Cathy and Mike Gorman.
Kangaroo Valley Solar