

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008

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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.

Fighting against and reducing Carbon Emissions is in fact the easy part, the real challenge is in finding enough politicians that care enough about the issue and their constituents to tackle this issue head-on.

We need politicians, that are willing to take the radical solutions onboard and realise it is worth the expense to have people convert their lifestyles and homes and embrace alternate renewable energy resources, and vehicles with 'Greener' emissions.

A concerted Government effort to assist business to convert their energy resources to Solar would be further improving the situation and end up saving business costs in the long term.

Schools could be big winners through solar conversion, as besides a saving in general terms, during holiday periods they would have the opportunity to make money by allowing the electric suppliers to buy back electricity the generate and are not using during this period.

And of course the conversion of all residential properties to solar energy as mentioned in my previous Blog has enormous effect on Carbon Emission reduction and offset.

The Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme, which the Rudd Government are presently opting for, due to debateable success in Europe, is a poor choice for Australia, and our unique conditions, and will not really address our problems.

However, it would be an easy sell on the electorate, a sign of Australia's 'coming of age' to the International Community on the Climate Change debate, and a change in the political scene to

showing Government's don't just feel our pain, but are willing to address the cause of our problems, and take action to implement the necessary changes.

I urge The Senate to seriously look at the alternatives of renewable energies, as this is the only 'real' alternative policy, and therefore I support this Bill, but feel it does not quite go far enough. A Government with a strong leader in place, willing to show they are focused on Australia, and the electorate, rather than their own political future, could have brought forward these changes, and thank god the Senate is in place to ensure policies that are fundamentally wrong and against the electorates needs or desires are not introduced.

It only requires politicians willing to accept they may upset a few big businesses for the benefit of all Australians, and a willingness to make and change some existing legislation, policies and plans, to address these important needs, and we as Australians will be showing the world not just **'the way of the future'**, but also **'the way forward'**

Kevin