

Friday, 15 August 2008

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

To Whom it May Concern:

**Re: Inquiry into the  
Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008**

As partner in an engineering services business and with a long-term interest in sustainable living I simply want to express support for this Bill. While researching, I made a mental list of the changes I would like, then found my issues all covered!

The features I am particularly wanting to affirm are:

1. Include a broad scope of Renewable Technologies
  - a. Not just solar PV. The list of technologies is very broad. I encourage this to be inclusive by allowing for unlisted future renewable technologies with some clear guidelines on how to assess compliance.
2. Metering of gross renewable energy generated with no limits on system size.
  - a. This removes disincentives to higher power users and generators – where a larger impact may be made.
  - b. Risks of gross metering include:
    - i. Emphasis on renewable generation without incentive to reduce consumption. I see this as a small issue, since those who take up the offer will tend to be most careful in energy use.
    - ii. Potential to cheat and connect “dirty” grid power back into the Renewable Energy meter. This could be monitored and compared to predicted energy generation.
3. Long term certainty of feed-in tariffs.
  - a. I am guessing that this scheme would replace the existing rebate schemes for grid-connect systems. This scheme is much broader and long-term future focussed, rather than just a quick one-off rebate.
  - b. Incentive is created to make a well supported long-term financial decision that will benefit the environment for all.
  - c. How will the feed-in-tariff be indexed over the 20 year period? Fixed; indexed to inflation; or indexed to electricity pricing?
  - d. The proposed funding mechanism seems effective and fair by moving the renewable burden from taxpayers to energy users. It also removes the up front financial burden from government funds.

I wish you wisdom and effectiveness in debating and progressing this Bill.

Yours sincerely  
Michael Tibbs

