

14 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
Email: eca.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/ Madam,

GetUp is excited about the proposed amendment to the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000, to establish a national feed-in tariff scheme.

A feed-in tariff scheme will create new jobs and new economic opportunities in the green economy. In Germany, there are over 250,000 jobs in renewable energy and this industry includes a booming export sector. This is in large part to Germany's successful feed-in-tariff law.

Australia is one of the sunniest and windiest countries in the world, with huge opportunities for geothermal, solar concentrating thermal, solar PV, tidal and other forms of renewable power. However, we need to reward families, communities and businesses who choose to produce renewable energy, to ensure it is widely taken up and that we capitalize on our opportunities.

Australia has the ability to be the world leader in the new green economy. A national solar feed-in law would provide a tremendous boost to renewable energy production, create thousands of new jobs and effectively reducing carbon pollution. An emissions trading scheme alone is not enough.

GetUp believes that, to be successful, a legislated national feed in tariff scheme should meet the following criteria:

- The guaranteed price premium must be a minimum 3.88 times the cost of coal-fired power;
- Contracts should be made for a minimum 15 years;
- Connection of renewable energy must be a priority obligation for the distributor; and
- Qualifying generators must not include those already in operation or already participating in the MRET scheme – ensuring the tariff applies only to genuinely additional renewable energy.

GetUp consists of over 280,000 members, and consistently they tell us, through member surveys and member emails, that climate change is at the very top of their list of priorities for Australia. Through our national 'climate torch relay', thousands of Australians are mobilising in their communities to demand a

GETUP LTD
ABN: 99 114 027 986

PO Box A105
Sydney South, NSW, 1235
Phone: 02 9264 4037
Fax: 02 9283 1371
info@getup.org.au
www.getup.org.au



carbon pollution reduction target of 50% by 2020 from 1990 levels. An effective national feed-in tariff law will be an important part of Australia's plan to meet this ambitious but necessary target.

Based on our experience with our members, and our understanding of the Australian political environment, Getup believes that a national feed-in tariff law would enjoy a very high level of public support from GetUp members and the broader Australian community.

This is the kind of measure that the Australian community has been crying out for over the past decade – a practical, workable, easily understandable step that concretely increases the amount of renewable energy produced in Australia and cuts carbon emissions to help solve climate change.

GetUp strongly supports the bill and will be communicating with our members about its progress should it not receive the support it deserves in Parliament.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Solomon". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brett Solomon
Executive Director
GetUp

GETUP LTD
ABN: 99 114 027 986

PO Box A105
Sydney South, NSW, 1235
Phone: 02 9264 4037
Fax: 02 9283 1371
info@getup.org.au
www.getup.org.au