

Janette & Andrew Bailey

21 May 08

Hon Peter Garrett
Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

RE: Action to reinstate a Solar Rebate free of means testing

Dear Minister Garrett

Over two hundred people in the Samford Valley district in South East Queensland have signed contracts to purchase solar panels for their homes. A significant proportion of them, including us, will be affected by the means test announced in the budget on 13 May 2008.

We and other people have already signed up so that we could help do our bit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as save some domestic power costs. In the case of the Samford Solar Neighbourhood project this would have resulted in a reduction of over 6,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases over the lifetime of the panels.

We signed up also on the assumption that the Rudd government would at the least keep the previous government's inadequate level of assistance to the everyday person in this country who was committed enough to put up their own money to help reduce greenhouse gases on their own property. The Rudd government's commitment to Kyoto and climate change generally would seem to suggest an increase rather than a reduction in the number of households for whom solar panels was a realistic purchase option.

We most certainly assumed that the proclaimed 'fair play' approach of the Rudd government announcement would mean that any person signed up to a solar panel contract at the time of the budget announcement would have that contract subject to the \$8000 solar rebate.

Therefore we urge you and the Government to:

1. Announce that any person who had signed a contract to purchase a rebateable solar panel prior to midnight on 13 May be enabled to continue with the purchase and be eligible to apply for a full rebate within a three month period.
2. Lift the means test income value to \$150,00 in line with other announced means tests, or
3. Reverse the decision to have the solar rebate means tested.

We urge this action in the strongest possible terms.

Yours sincerely

Janette and Andrew Bailey