

Mr Simon Birmingham

10th July 2008

Dear Mr Birmingham,

We would like you to submit our dissatisfaction with the Rudd Government regarding the proposed changes to the means test on the solar rebate scheme.

Apart from climate change, our extravagant use of fossil fuel has to be the most challenging problem the world faces. Therefore to ensure that the world is left habitable for future generations surely the time to address these issues is now rather than at the death knoll. The evidence suggests that we need to become very serious about these issues now.

On the one hand, Mr Rudd has demonstrated to the world his agreement with the issues and signed the Kyoto Protocol, but one has to question his sincerity when on the other hand he places a means test on the solar rebate scheme.

If Mr Rudd is really serious about climate change, he could follow Germany's and some of the Scandinavian countries lead by offering generous rebates, not only for solar panel installation, but also for solar power pumped back into the grid.

We are currently building a house and our intention was to install solar panels with the aim of reducing our carbon footprint. We have been advised that the cost of solar power installation in rural areas will be more expensive than our metropolitan cousins. Since we are both retired, this plan has now been shelved as the cost has become prohibitive.

Yours Faithfully,

Ian and Frances Toogood