

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008

Simon Birmingham  
Liberal Senator for South Australia  
61 Henley Beach Road  
MILE END SA 5031

**SUBJECT: Means Testing for Solar Rebate Grant**

**Attention: Mr Simon Birmingham**

Dear Simon,

I am an accredited BSCE solar system installer and I am passionate about the environment and my carbon footprint. I am a firm believer that all of man kind needs to act now in whatever ways possible to reduce the affects of climate change and global warming so that our children and our children's children have the same opportunities that we have been afforded and have a clean stable environment in which to live out their lives. PV Solar panel installations are a great way for households to make a difference and participate in Australia's and the rest of the world's obligations regarding reducing our green house gas emissions.

The federal government's decision to apply means testing to the solar rebate grants is step backwards and has had a detrimental affect on my business, my livelihood and will have an ongoing / continuing affect on the environment. The decision is incorrect and is the government is clearly out of touch with the general community.

I have had numerous orders cancelled from green conscious customers that no longer meet the means tested grant requirements and are unable to afford the full amount of their PV solar panel installation, without the government grant contribution. These customers are everyday people who are passionate about the environment and believe they should be participating in reducing their green house gas emissions regardless of their annual family taxable income. I also know of several other system installers who have had a similar number of cancellations due to the introduction of means testing. The accumulative affect of these cancelled orders would make a considerable contribution towards Australia's reduction in green house gas emissions.

The federal government are sending mixed messages to the general public, they either want to reduce Australia's green house gas emissions or they don't. It should not be dependant on how much money each individual family earns per annum. If the federal government are serious about climate change and green house gas emissions then they should remove the means testing on solar panel installations so that all Australians get an equal opportunity to the government funding and we can all collectively make a difference.

There are many hundreds if not thousands of families around Australia who were considering installing PV solar panel systems at their residential properties who have now been denied any government assistance which makes these installations too expensive to proceed with and therefore they will no longer go ahead.

I am very interested in attending any public hearings relating to this enquiry please advise the details for these any that are to be held in Sydney.

Regards

Todd Healey  
Registered PV Installer  
BCSE Accreditation P1875