

The ill-advised decision by the Federal Government to means-test the threshold on the \$8000 solar rebate has at least enabled the broader issues relating to solar technology to be publicly aired.

With climate change and the impact of carbon emissions, and the newly announced CPR scheme, the time has never been better for the Government to urgently address alternative energy sources.

Living in Hobart, it has NOT been easy to find other than solar water heaters. Yet the high level of our sunlight hours make us a perfect setting for solar panels and to provide both domestic power, and feed excess into the power-grid.

Key issues which must be addressed in this debate, and by your Committee, are:

1. ***the preparedness of industry to invest in solar technology.*** We already know of successful Australian companies now working out of China and the US, because of inadequate support at home, both Government-funding for research and infrastructure, and skilled manpower;
2. the preparedness of Governments, State and Federal to ***support industry, research and community initiatives in the area of alternative energy;***
3. the importance of Government support for ***a public awareness campaign*** as to the importance and efficacy of solar powered alternatives to current fossil-fuel driven options; *and*
4. the ***continuance of a non-means tested solar water/panels rebate*** for households keen to be part of the solar revolution to ensure that all households wanting to be part of that revolution can access the technology at a reasonable cost.

I wish you well in your deliberations and may they guide a move to a more sustainably-based energy economy.

Belinda Kendall-White

"The will to do... the soul to dare."
Sir Walter Scott

*'Life ought not be measured by the number of breaths you take,
but by the moments that take your breath away'*

The difference between management and leadership is VISION

Just because it has not been seen or done before, don't think or say it can't be done