



All Natural Energy

Alternative Power Systems
Solar – Wind - Hydro

Po Box 800
RICHMOND 2753
Ph: 02 4578 8808
Fax: 02 4578 8809
Lic: 118149C
ABN: 82 477 946 126
BCSE No. FDI705

RE: INTRODUCTION OF MEANS TESTING FOR SOLAR REBATES

I am writing to express both my concern and sadness in response to the sudden introduction of household means testing for solar rebates brought about in May this year.

This decision was introduced without any prior notification and was effective immediately. Not only did this instantly jeopardise all current quoted jobs for our grid connect customers, it blackened the mood and momentum of the solar industry.

Our business, All Natural Energy, is a small family owned business that has been operating for over 8 years and relies on solar installations for its sole income. Unlike many business today, we have a genuine long term interest and passion for renewable energy and its vital role in conserving our natural environment, its people and its animals.

After much thought and hope, we voted for Kevin Rudd in the latest election with the clear belief that he had a vested and sincere interest in developing our industry and in turn combating the pressure of global warming. I feel at this time Australia needs to take leadership in this matter rather than concentrating on the economical factors of a clearly **environmental** issue.

Since the introduction of the means testing our clientele for the grid connect market has decreased dramatically, both in enquiry levels and actual sales. In the past year leading up to these changes our business, All Natural Energy, had a steady incoming volume of grid connect work in a great range of areas throughout Sydney. Since the budget in May we have not carried out a single new grid connect installation. To see the decline in this once booming part of our business is a very disheartening thing. The Governments decision to introduce the means test has certainly been detrimental to the development and sustainability of our business and to the solar industry as a whole.

The introduction of the means testing does not in any way encourage the purchase of renewable energy systems for any typical Australian of any social or economical demographic. Most households earning less than \$100,000 most likely would not have the necessary funds to invest in a solar power system. This is just common sense isn't it?

It is stated that it is harder for a camel to move through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go to heaven – as I ponder this thought now, I fear this may indeed be true. Is it easier for those with money and power to stay comfortable and feather their own nest rather than do the right and decent thing?

Myself and my partner, would like to attend any public meeting held, in regards to this enquiry.

I appreciate the time taken to read over this letter and I look forward to some beneficial changes being made to enable the solar industry to prosper and in turn benefit the nation and our environment as a whole.

Yours Faithfully,

Amie Johnston
All Natural Energy