

Good morning,

This letter is my submission to the Senate enquiry into the decision to means test the Solar rebate.

The introduction of residential solar rebate means testing has already resulted in thousands of cancelled solar installations and attributed to many job losses in the solar industry.

In an age when the Australian government is claiming to support the use of renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions, a rebate means test sends contradictory messages to the Australian public and threatens a solar industry that has taken many years to establish.

Why make the rebate only available to low combined income earners (less than \$100,000), people who are the least able to afford the gap cost outlay of installing solar panels? People who are already struggling to cope with mortgage interest rate hikes, and increased petrol and cost of living prices? Industry estimates suggest that people in this income bracket only make up 25% of the demographic installing solar. With 75% of installations belonging to people earning over \$100,000, no wonder the introduction of the means test has had such a catastrophic effect on orders.

Logic states that people earning more, have larger houses and bigger appliances, so a change to their energy consumption by the implementation of solar will have a greater impact to our environment. Surely, we can make a big impact to carbon emissions by encouraging big energy users to change their habits? Wealthy people should not be disparaged from renewable energy, they should be encouraged to be environmentally responsible like everyone else!

By introducing a means test the Government has made the rebate scheme unobtainable to a major chunk of the Australian public, thus showing their lack of dedication to improving climate change and removing a huge incentive to make Australians responsible for their environmental carbon footprint.

We have heard from the Minister for the Environment that the means test decision was made due to recent popularity of the Rebate scheme. Isn't this the response we want in Australia? We WANT installation of solar power to be popular!

To allow the solar industry to have a bright future in Australia, the means test should be reversed.

Regards,

Jo Payne

**Solarsave** – Installers of solar powered electric systems