

Dear Sir,

Re Senate Inquiry into Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate protection)

We signed up for solar panels through the "Local Power Cooperative" at West End in Brisbane prior to the budget. We had ordered solar panels to provide 2 KW of power to substantially offset our electricity use. Unfortunately this was going to cost us about \$19,000 instead of \$11,000 after the rebate we budgeted for is no longer available as our combined income is over \$100,000. As we had saved for the solar panels and I felt an obligation to the community minded people who had done all the research for the best system and committed to buying a certain number of panels so the price was reduced to the 150 buyers in the cooperative we have gone ahead and now have 9 solar panels on our roof producing 1.5KW of power feeding back into the grid.

I understand how people who can afford to pay shouldn't receive some government payments but I think this particular decision is very short sighted. People on low incomes are struggling to pay for mortgages and food. I am sure they are not going to be able to afford a few thousand dollars to put solar panels on their roof if they have one.

It is a relatively inexpensive way the government can support renewable energy production. In countries like Germany a significant proportion of their power is produced by solar panels on roofs.

It is going to take us on the present rate for electricity 25 years to recuperate the cost of the solar system.

I think people respond better to incentives rather than disincentives like carbon taxes.

Encourage people to be responsible for reducing their impact on the environment.

Encourage the people who are able to put solar panels on their roofs to reduce their carbon footprint.

If you do decide to suggest implementing the solar rebate without the means test please have it from the date of the budget as there are many people in our position who were committed to solar systems prior to the budget.

Thank you.

Jayne Murdoch