

I wish to put the following submission before the committee.

My family was keen to install solar cells for electricity generation, purely for environmental reasons, as we are highly concerned about our global future. We have a combined income of around \$130,000 a year, but this fluctuates as I am a teacher reliant on contract and temporary work. We have two dependant children at public schools and a mortgage. We work hard for our income, and live comfortably, but by no means extravagantly. At our income level we receive no extra government help. In addition to the rising cost of petrol and groceries, our children are approaching adolescence, so both their leisure interests and their education are more expensive. In the next few years we will need to consider the cost of supporting our children in tertiary education, and then ourselves in our own retirement. Without the rebate on solar cells, we have decided that the capital outlay, and time it will take for us to recoup the cost in energy savings, make installing them financially unattractive.

I am disgusted that the government signed Kyoto, then removed the incentive for average Australians to do their bit. The combined income cap is way too low, as it not only rules out wealthy families, but also those containing two average income earners. It seems our government is good at making the big gestures on the global stage, but cannot follow through with the required steps at community level to make change practical and possible. I believe that when the government signed Kyoto, it became its duty to commit itself to support the fledgling solar industry until it reaches critical mass,- which will occur when cells are manufactured and installed as standard on all buildings. This will inevitably reduce costs, and then, and only then will it be possible for rebates to be removed while maintaining a viable industry.

Yours.
Robyn Heitmann.