

To:  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts Department  
of the Senate PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

Re: Inquiry into Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008 [No. 2]

Dear Sir/Madam

I apologise for the lateness of this submission as I only became aware today of the enquiry.

I am absolutely appalled at the decision to means test solar panel installation, particularly grid-connected systems.

Installing solar panels does not just benefit the householder who installs them - it supplies green energy to the grid, benefiting ALL electricity consumers, enabling power companies to meet the increasing demand for Greenpower, reducing their reliance on coal, improving the value of the property for current AND future owners, providing a boost for Australian solar technology and installers all over the country, and reducing the overall greenhouse footprint for all of Australia.

Just as we were about to enter a solar boom, the Federal Government put the brakes on.

Even with a rebate in place, the up-front cost for an appropriately sized system for a household is considerable, given rising interest rates and fuel prices eating into spare cash. What we are seeing now is companies offering undersized systems to fit the lower-end budgets in order to keep the companies float. This is a short term fix that will unravel as people realise that their systems are not meeting their needs.

The only way to drive this up front cost down is by increasing the market volume. Providing a general rebate will encourage a much wider field to buy into solar. If we are to meet our emissions targets, we need to put the rebate back for one and all and watch Australia's solar rooftops bloom for ALL Australians.

Yours sincerely

Lis Shelley  
(existing grid-connected solar power and solar hot water system owner)