

I am an owner/operator of a renewable energy business in North Queensland.

My business was operating to the point where I had enough work to employ 2 other staff and maintain a permanent electrical contractor for the business.

I had approximately \$90k of business pending prior to the announcement of the means test for the solar rebate. On the day the means test was announced my potential clients cancelled their orders as they were over the \$100k limit and would not receive the rebate.

As a consequence of the means test and cancellation of my orders, I declined employing any staff and have had to obtain employment in other areas to financially secure myself and my family.

The people who can afford renewable energy systems are in the wage earning area of \$100k, and in the current financial climate this income does not hold the same value it did even a few years back. In a time where the rural populace (being the majority of my clientele) are facing increasing financial pressures from the extensive drought, rising petrol costs and inflation, the availability of government subsidies is the only way that many renewable energy projects are undertaken. I feel that the means test is only going to diminish the interest in renewable energy, and the program is becoming contradictory to the government's climate change agenda.

Regards,

Graeme Hunter JP (Qual)
North Australian Solar Pty Ltd