

Attention Senate Enquiry,

RE: SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC CELL REBATE

I write to you as a responsible member of the Australian community who is outraged at the Rudd Government's decision to effectively finish the rebate for PV cells being installed on homes. Means testing the \$8,000 rebate at \$100,000 income all but eliminates any possibility of people buying the cells. An income of at least \$100,000 is required these days to even qualify to own a home, which means almost no one will be eligible for the rebate.

The Rudd Government decision effectively will kill off what is an excellent initiative – that being the weaning off of fossil fuels by the gradual inclusion of renewable energy sources, in this case generated by solar power. As you know a 1KW power system retails for around \$14-16,000 (installed) and is capable of producing between 20-40% of an average home's energy use on a year round basis. The \$8,000 rebate made a massive contribution and offered a fabulous incentive for people to start making the switch to renewable energy. This subsidy should be available with no cap to anyone who invests in the technology as their part in changing the world for the better.

Imagine for a moment a future, say 20 years from now, when every single home in Australia has one of these cells installed. Imagine how much less toxic emissions will be released in to the atmosphere. Imagine how much closer we as a nation will be to achieving our goals of reducing our emissions to meet our obligations under Kyoto. Imagine how many billions of dollars will be saved by Federal and State Governments NOT having to spend ever more on fossil or even nuclear power stations. Imagine Australia being a world leader in adopting renewable energy – something we have the power to do, yet it seems not the political will. This issue is not only imperative for our planet, it is a massive vote winner. Every day, people are becoming more aware of green initiatives and they do want to take part. Ending this subsidy, by adopting what is a very "mean" means test sends the wrong signal to ordinary Australians.

Staying silent or not acting right now on this issue is not an option. What will you do to change this today?

Craig Turnbull