

Regarding the above inquiry, I would like to include the following submission.

Since the previous Howard Government announced the \$8000 solar rebate, Blackmore's Power and Water almost doubled the 07/08 financial year turnover compared with 06/07.

This has led to the employment of an additional staff member on a casual basis, and we were intending to add an extra electrician to our staff. You can appreciate the benefits of this extra employment in a small town like Laura. (Population approx 700).

Since the Rudd announcement, to means test the rebate application, our inquiry rate has reduced by approximately 50%.

Initially, I thought the means test wouldn't deter families earning over \$100,000, to continue to install solar power grid connect systems. However NOT one customer has installed or intends to install a system, that hasn't applied for the \$8000 government rebate.

Even after the South Australian government announced the 44c feed in tariff, this still hasn't encouraged higher income families to take up the challenge of reducing green house emissions.

How can small business budget and plan their operation, when it is obvious that without the rebate, people aren't interested in installing solar power grid systems.

The Rudd government during pre election, indicated their support for renewable energy, and in one night (Budget Night), without any pre warning, this announcement has instigated our business into freefall.

I understand that the senate inquiry is intending to hold public hearings. I would like to be advised of dates, so I can attend.

Regards,  
Chris Blackmore  
Blackmore's Power and Water