

Inquiry Members

The introduction of means testing of the \$8000 solar rebate has reduced this scheme to a paradox in that only those with discretionary income can afford to contemplate solar power but it is this section of the community that is being precluded from the rebate as a result of the means test.

The reduction in the household electricity bill is not the motivation for installation of solar panels, it is the reduction in greenhouse gases. My experience is that people explore the prospects of solar panel installation on altruistic, and not economic grounds. Many people such as myself would like to contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases and are also prepared to contribute towards the cost but cannot meet the whole cost. The introduction of a means test is now preventing me from installing solar panels as I could barely afford it before the rules were changed.

The original non-means tested scheme resulted in a flourishing solar industry and the cost of solar power installation was diminishing due to economies of scale and increased competition in the solar market. The introduction of means testing has resulted in our local solar industry now withering on the vine.

There has been much made in the press recently of the introduction of a carbon trading scheme. This proposal will spawn an entire new market with the inevitable middlemen who will cream off vast amounts of money and still drive their big cars into their city offices. There is speculation that the aluminium industry is to be exempt and allowed to continue to pollute but imagine if you had solar panels on millions of roofs. While we are all at work and using minimal energy at home the excess power could find its way through the grid to our aluminium smelters, cement factories etc

**PLEASE DO YOUR BIT TO ENCOURAGE THE SOLAR INDUSTRY AND
REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES BY WITHDRAWING THE MEANS TEST FOR
SOLAR PANELS**

I also ask that you consider making it easier to install solar technology that is scalable with a low start up cost.

The current scheme only entitles you to a full rebate if you install a significant generation capacity. If the initial cost of the inverter and installation of a single panel was subsidised then many householders such as myself would formally commit to purchasing additional panels every year for say four years. These agreements could be structured so that if the householder failed to purchase the agreed number of additional panels over four years the original subsidy would have to be repaid.

Thank you
Kim Pett