

To The Secretary, Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts,

I am writing to express my concern at the hastily implemented solar rebate means test. My husband and I have two young children under five, one of whom has special needs. We both work fulltime to cover our farm mortgage in the hope of riding out the drought.

Our join income is over the threshold. We were counting on this rebate to enable us to cover the cost of installing solar panels to reduce our power bills. We are now NOT able to do this and will struggle to pay our winter energy bills. (We live in Mildura with more sunlight hours than Queensland and its free!)

Cutting this rebate is seriously disadvantaging our family.

Electricity costs over 4 times what the consumer pays to generate. In European countries households that produce solar energy and make it available to the grid, are paid the full price for their contribution to the power grid. They are paid the same price as the power station for producing this energy!

The more people that install solar energy, the bigger the saving to government through a decrease in the amount of subsidized power generation. The green house emissions will be decreased with the reduction in the need for coal generated power thus assisting government with meeting its carbon emissions reduction targets.

You should not only reinstate the rebate, but double it to \$16,000 for 2 kilo watts of solar panels. Households producing this electricity should receive the same subsidized return as the power stations for their power generation.

Yours Sincerely

Jennifer A Douglas

