

Friday, 18 July 2008

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
eca.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Inquiry into Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008

Thank you for inviting the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council to participate in the inquiry as detailed above.

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) is the peak body of key organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia. ASBEC members consists of industry and professional associations, non-government organisations and government observers who are involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment, and are concerned with the social and environmental impacts of this sector.

ASBEC provides a forum for diverse groups involved in the built environment to gather, find common ground and intelligently discuss contentious issues. Our key strength is the knowledge and diversity of our members who are committed to collaborating and developing strategic input into climate change adaptation and relevant and achievable solutions to reduce emissions to meet our Kyoto commitment.

Late last year ASBEC commissioning research into deep-cut greenhouse emissions in the building sector. In brief, the research showed that if **we deliver energy efficiency in the building sector, we could reduce the growth in greenhouse gas emissions by 35 per cent by 2050**, even if we take into account the expected growth in the overall number of buildings.

ASBEC support the senates inquiry into the impact of the means test threshold of \$100 000 on the \$8 000 solar rebate per household as announced in the Federal Budget and its impact on the solar industry. We would encourage the inquiry include engagement with a wider group beyond the solar industry to enable a diverse range of views and solutions to emerge.

We support low carbon energy production in principal and the best payback for a low carbon future lies in energy efficiency of buildings which will require less power.

The built environment provides Australia with an excellent opportunity to meet its green house gas emissions targets through energy efficiency as does the opportunity for increased emended generation such as solar photovoltaics. We would encourage a diversity of policy responses to persuade building owners to invest in energy efficiency and embedded generation, thus reducing the built environments environmental footprint.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our submission.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Pidcock
President ASBEC

