

To Whom It May Concern:

How to keep this as short and simple as possible. How can Australia keep telling the world it is the lucky country and the clever country if innovative and forward thinking initiatives in support of fostering truly renewable energy sources is stymied. I could point out Germany and California for their solar initiatives, or Spain and Denmark for their wind generation investment, as well as a host of other countries making the effort. We should not, however, be doing the right thing by our environment, our children and their children, and for our pocketbooks out of a sense of competition with other countries. We should be doing these things because it makes sense on a practical and moral base.

Supporting new industries is critical until mass production and societal uptake happens as a matter of course. If governments want to remove support, they should start to phase it out over time. Wean people off the idea that they need government support to make things happen.

I myself have solar hot water on my house in Hobart and it is saving me money, reduces my contribution to energy use, and inspires my friends and neighbours to do the same. I have also been the lead proponent at MacKillop College in ensuring that we are on our way to becoming a truly sustainable school and educating on this. In fact, we are the first school in Tasmania with a grid-connected photovoltaic array. Both of these were accomplished with local and/or federal government support, but the effects are multiple on a level of education, acceptability, and making the technology more commonplace in people's minds.

If anything, as the highest per capita polluters on the planet, it behoves the Australian Federal Government to take a lead on dropping us off the top-10 polluter list in any way available.

Regards,
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