

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

**Submission to the Senate Inquiry Save Our solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill
2008 [No. 2]**

***The impact of the means test threshold of \$100,000 on the \$8,000 solar rebate
per household on the solar industry***

It is essential that our solar industry thrives so that it can innovate. Solar power is a legitimate alternative power source, however, there is still a long way to go in its development and production before it becomes a relevant alternative to the average Australian household.

***The impact on the number of applications for the \$8,000 since the budget
decision to impose the means test***

As a two income family, paying large amounts of tax, a mortgage and running only one car we would have to add to our mortgage to purchase solar panels. We don't have savings and would need to borrow, adding to the payback time.

Between the two of us we earn around \$120,000 before tax, that is \$75,000 after tax. We only have one dependant. By the time the bills are paid we do not have spare money to install solar panels. We were hoping to benefit from the commonwealth rebate, and now we can't. We are by no means wealthy.

I cannot see how a household on under \$100,000 could possibly afford to outlay the additional amount required, unless it was a single person household. The threshold will exclude the income bracket that can afford it. And the ones it is targeting will not be able to afford it. From a cynical view it looks like it has been lowered to ensure this is achieved.

The fact that I only got notice of this opportunity to send a representation to the senate inquiry is evidence that consultation and communication on this issue has been negligent. This has not given my time to prepare a decent submission. Personally I am a great believer in solar power as a viable alternative to environmentally damaging power sources and the electricity grid that wastes power by its nature. We have to start producing power onsite and stop the wasteful power guzzling huge power station grid model that is currently imposed on us.

Carol Bond