

From: Meredith McKenzie  
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2009  
To: Economics, Committee (SEN)  
Subject: Solar panels - cancellation.

I am writing to protest about the chopping off without due warning of the \$8000 rebate for solar panels. I am one of many low income people who could have benefited from this and was within three days of signing up, having waited to organise the finance (not much required) that I needed.

All of a sudden - bang - it is gone and is now only for the rich. This makes me furious. In the first place the rebate should have been income restricted to those earning under \$50,000. If you live on \$14,000 per year - EVERYONE earning \$100,000 is earning too much. I look at the amount the young wealthy two income families waste on having up to 40 (yes, truly) downlights burning in their homes all day and night, using dryers instead of clothes lines and letting water run for long showers and full baths without care and it makes me spit that they could have put on these systems without turning a hair, or at least only having to stay at home one or two nights a month instead of spending money out, when we who really would benefit from the savings on power, are denied it. These people also seldom - on my observations - bother to put on these panels as they can afford to pay big electricity bills.

The backlash doesn't stop there however - what will now happen to the businesses and workers who had a future cut out from under them? Stocks of materials will go to waste and probably put some people out of business and more people will be unemployed. Great going!

Solar power and green solutions are not being utilised enough. We have more than enough wind, sun and wave power in the West to provide all our power and get rid of coal and uranium mining. The wave power generator as seen on ABC'S New Inventors is brilliant, as are many items seen there - maybe the all Government staff/members should have to watch this and apply these brilliant ideas instead of authorising and promoting more mines where the benefits go overseas and the drawbacks go to Aussies.

Also needing attention is the approval given to homes where the hot water service is well away from the primary areas needing hot water - buckets are wasted every day waiting for hot water - services should be grouped or separate hot water supplies installed closer to their necessary use. Approval also should not be given to homes without outside drying - covered or uncovered. Many people are too lazy to peg out clothes and dryers run all day every day. You should run a campaign to stop these wastages.

The ones who suffer from these excesses of others are the poorer, lower income families and the elderly, particularly women who like me never had the chance to build up super - we were not permitted to have it when I was working as I was part time or casual secretary - and now we are even denied the opportunity to have solar panels to help reduce the cost of our power and to help keep our planet green. Not fair.

Also, if something is not done to stop the average Western Australian cutting down every tree or shrub which dares to grow above their head height, we will be in dire straights. In many suburbs all you see now are acres of roofs - tiled or sheeted it is all the same. No trees, few shrubs and more paving. Now wonder our city is growing hotter and more uncomfortable. In the Eastern States they have tree preservation orders to prevent wholesale destruction of trees, but in a state where only sand is the greatest soil type and it takes years before trees establish deep root systems, anything tall is chopped off as fast as possible - witness the destruction around clean up time!

Developers must shout hooray when they see a tree because they clear every possible thing growing and of course there is then even less vegetation available to clean the air.

If I sound cross it is because I am. I try to save water and power, have planted trees but any little I do is negated by someone less interested in how the world will be for their children as they go happily about destroying the ecology as fast as they can - and unfortunately there are more of them than of me but I and others like me will suffer more because we cannot afford the power bills and the new round of rises will take out all our HUGE increase - which is yet to come - maybe that will be cancelled too. Nothing surprises me.  
Meredith McKenzie.