

Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2009
To: Economics, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Re: Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2009

To whom it may concern.

Last year in October I started the process of fitting a 1kw grid connect solar system to my house here in Northern Tasmania. Some 7 months later the process was completed by my \$8000 rebate put into my bank account from the Federal Government.

In between was the painful process of having to deal with Aurora Electricity, Tasmania's electricity supplier; gaining permission from Federal Government that we fitted the grant scheme, having the panels and inverter fitted (1 day) and waiting for paperwork, bureaucracy, more paperwork, more bureaucracy etc etc.

If the Australia Government was really in the business of supporting alternative energy they would be trying to look at things as though they were a customer instead of the grindingly slow paperwork, red tape machine that it seems to be.

As well as this the REC debacle is a sham and lets energy polluters buy their way to being seen as clean and green. Now with the creation of lot's of phantom RECS if this new system goes ahead there will be even more uncertainty in the alternative energy industry.

Isn't it about time that the Federal Government took some real leadership and focussed on making Australia's alternative energy industry one of the foremost in the world. After all one thing we have is an abundance of sunshine.

If there was a mandated Gross Feed in tariff that is higher than the cost of electricity and was across all states and territories that would give people incentive to invest in grid connect systems. At the moment in Tasmania electricity prices have risen by up to 15% but no rise in the amount that they pay for there pathetic Net Feed in tariff. Look at Germany and other countries around the world that have done similar things. I may be naive but Australia seems to spend an awful amount of time and money reinventing the wheel and then greasing it as it squeaks.

My wife and I are trying to do the right thing by renovating a house in a sustainable fashion including grid connect solar and lots of other people are also doing this. The movement seems to be a grass roots one that is being constantly frustrated by governments who just don't get it. This is for a long term future not just another re-election. It would be refreshing to see a government that actually has the **balls** to do something positive for the planet instead of more and more "spin". Words are cheap, correct long term action takes foresight and courage. Sadly all governments of all political persuasions seem to be sadly lacking in this department.

Stop promising the world and get on with making it a liveable planet.

Yours sincerely
Sean Manners