

Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2009
To: Economics, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Solar Uncertainty

I call on politicians of all parties to pass legislation that gives some certainty to people wanting to purchase solar power systems.

If the Australian government paid a 50% subsidy on solar power, that would mean that tens of thousands of Australians would be paying the other half - in other words, funding infrastructure that is usually 100% funded by government. A solar rebate SAVES THE GOVERNMENT MONEY and therefore generates clean power at a cheaper cost to the government than building another fossil fuel power station. Because individuals are paying half the cost, the real generation cost to the government is less than 10 cents a unit over the 25 year life of the system.

Such a move would also generate thousands of jobs in the solar industry, including among electricians and other installers.

Make it generous. Make it simple. But make it NOW.

Roger McMillan