

Dear Senate Committee

If Australia is to resile from its leading position as one of the world's largest per capita greenhouse gas emitters, we need to see sincere, transparent, practical and verifiable goals set for renewable energy generation.

To date, all we have seen is symbolism, posturing and equivocation.

The foreclosure of the Solar Homes and Communities Rebate Program is a case in point and its downgrading is a sad indictment of government loss of direction.

A generous attitude towards the re-implementation of this rebate scheme is a precondition to providing necessary stimulation to ensure widespread use of small scale, alternative renewable energy production in this country. Germany is a stand-out case of good public policy in relation to photovoltaic energy production.

An important consideration is the disposition of the RECS which relate to the installation of such systems. Emissions trading in RECS allows major polluters in the generation of conventional coal fired electricity to continue with business as usual by purchasing these RECS at discounted prices. This produces obfuscation, "green-washing" and distorted public policy.

A second initiative is to implement a national gross feed-in tarriff system modelled on that used in the ACT.

I look forward to hearing positive outcomes from the committee targetting committed support for domestic residential, institutional and large scale renewable energy generation. Otherwise, we can hardly regard Government action on issues of global warming and climate change as serious and having substance.

Yours truly
Peter Bell