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Your submission for this review:
Now that we are seeing fewer retailers in the market (creating cost efficiencies), significantly lower discounts (due to fewer competitors), generators struggling to meet increasing demand (NSW recently), and higher prices being paid for wholesale electricity, why should the feed-in tariff from excess solar be continuing to trend down. It seems incompatible with market forces and completely unfair that we have to pay increased prices but don't get the benefit of being able to sell our energy for fair market value. Could it bee that IPART is governing for the market and not the people it's supposed to represent? Also, with all the increases and the diminishing competitiveness in the retail market, "shopping around" is not only getting harder but the Energy Made Easy website is anything but easy. In my case when I changed suppliers, of the 9 offers listed no the Energy Made Easy site by Alinta, only one (with 3 variations) is available on their website which is a fixed tariff with demand charges. All the others are either not available when you call, or are determined by the tariff set on your meter. This determination, according to Alinta, is made by the wholesaler and not the retailer. They even gave me the wholesaler's number to call them, which I did. The wholesaler said it's the retailer who determines what tariff is set on your meter. This is how the retailer manipulates the process to limit the consumer's choice. Another suggestion for IPART... why don't you test the process yourself and see what kind of frustrations and roadblocks you run into. Of course that's assuming you actually want to advocate for the consumer.