Media Release

IPART
New South Wales

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

FINAL REPORT – SOLAR FEED-IN TARIFFS

16 June 2014

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has today released its final report on solar feed-in tariffs in 2014/15. IPART's final decision is that the benchmark range for voluntary solar feed-in tariffs in 2014/15 is 4.9 to 9.3 cents per kilowatt hour (c/kWh).

The benchmark range is a guide to retailers and customers on the likely value of electricity exported to the grid by customers from their solar PV units. Electricity retailers in NSW have the flexibility to set their own feed-in tariffs.

IPART Chairman, Dr Peter Boxall, said the benchmark range is slightly lower than the draft decision because of a further reduction in forecast wholesale electricity prices in 2014/15 since the draft decision.

"Solar customers should shop around for the best deal," Dr Boxall said. "Feed-in tariffs are only one component of a retailer's market offer and the retailer with the highest feed-in tariff may not be providing the best deal overall."

"We encourage customers to look at the best overall deal, which includes consumption charges, and other terms and conditions as well as the feed-in tariff. The Commonwealth Government's Energy Made Easy website is a good place to start."

IPART has also made a final determination that the mandatory contribution from electricity retailers to the NSW Government should be 5.1c/kWh of PV electricity exported by Solar Bonus Scheme customers in 2014/15. This retailer contribution is also slightly lower than our draft decision due to lower forecast wholesale electricity prices.

Neither of these final decisions affects customers in the Solar Bonus Scheme who will continue to receive a subsidised feed-in tariff of either 20c or 60c/kWh until the scheme ends in December 2016.

IPART's final report and accompanying documents are available on IPART's website <http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>.

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