

i have had solar pv since 1998, and at that time i received parity from energy australia, that is, my solar generation was bought by the power company for the same amount of money that i bought from the power company, 11 cents / kw. while i only had a 1kw system installed then, the money earned went some way to offset the total cost of buying electricity. move forward to the state government encouraging the installation of pv cells on rooftops and the 60c feed in tariff, this was a windfall, but unsustainable for the energy companies. now with the state government selling off parts of the energy grid and the private companies wanting to make a good profit from what was once a public utility, energy prices are on the rise, despite what they say, the solar feed in tariff is now, for some silly reason, regulated to well below parity. there is no reason for this, except that the energy companies are reluctant to pay a fair price for our solar exports. despite what the state government has said in respect to the selling off of the various parts of the former public utility, would encourage competition and drive down energy prices, this could not be further from the truth. the new energy companies always find ways to make an extra profit on the retail side, be it from charging extra for paper bills (since rescinded) rent for smart meters, a separate charge for monitoring the smart meter, and an ever increasing charge for the service availability, they still will not acknowledge the importance of the local home owner's initiative in installing solar photo voltaic cells to reduce the reliance on coal fired generated electricity, by paying a fair and realistic price for the purchase of surplus energy fed back into the grid. there is no reasonable justification in not paying parity for solar feed in, other than their own budget bottom line. over the last three years i have increased my installed solar array to five (5kw) kilowatts, and with the \$0.125c feed in tariff, barely covers the total cost of buying electricity at \$0.2876c together with the other miscellaneous charges . if the current feed in tariff is further reduced, as suggested, there is every justification for me, personally, in installing sufficient battery storage to enable me to be off grid, thereby reducing my reliance on the the energy retailers for my electricity. however, i dare say i will still be charged for the convenience of having the power lines running past my residence (the service availability charge), and what else the retailer can think of charging. there really is no justification in reducing the feed in tariff, conversely there is every reason to increase the feed in tariff, so that parity is obtained for the home owner for the energy fed back to the grid. i installed photo voltaic solar cells to make a effective statement on climate change, and to move toward a sustainable future. most other people i know, who have also installed pv cells, are like minded, and any further reduction in the feed in tariff erodes any faith they and i may have in the system and a fair go for all. thank you for your time, alan jones.