

**SUBMISSION TO IPART REVIEW**  
**SOLAR FEED-IN TARIFFS 2017/18**

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I live in regional NSW and currently receive 6c per kWh generated by my solar array. I currently pay about \$1.36 per day to be connected to the grid and \$0.25 per kWh I use. In addition, I regularly suffer blackouts of about 6 hours duration mostly due to system maintenance but occasionally due to storms. These latter interruptions can last as long as 36 hours. I think that last year I suffered about 30 such supply interruptions.

I do not believe that what I am being paid reflects a fair price for my electricity. In order to guarantee continued supply I have spent about \$33,500 on my original solar system plus a generator to enable me to run my kitchen during supply interruptions. However, this means that I do not have any lighting or domestic water supply during these interruptions, nor can I use any non kitchen based appliances such as washing machine, computer, tv, power tools etc. As a result, I am currently purchasing an additional 3kw of solar capacity plus a 14kWh battery plus rewiring to my house to enable my whole house to function from the battery (not just the kitchen), to enable me to weather any supply interruptions. This at a cost of about \$18000. At the present rate of return on my system, I have to generate more than 23kWh of excess electricity per day just to pay for my connection to the grid. My existing array is 5.4kW (soon to be 8.4kW) and this means that I will only generate enough excess electricity during the warmer months of the year to cover this cost. At present the economics of this situation are driving me to take the view that I should simply disconnect from the grid, which means that all my excess electricity will go to waste. If the IPART proposed new benchmark solar feed in tariff were made mandatory, this would justify me staying on grid and mean that my excess solar electricity would be available for use by the community. Once my system is upgraded (expected in the next 2 months, once the new Tesla battery is available) I should be generating somewhere around 7000kWh per annum excess to my requirements. However, this will not be enough to cover my connection costs, let alone the cost of my solar array. However, if I go off grid, I will probably be better off by about \$500 per annum compared to the current regime where I am paid \$0.06 per kWh plus have to pay for grid connection of about \$500 per annum. It will be a pity if the current economics drive me and others off the grid, particularly when our greatest excess generation coincides with the air conditioning peak usage periods in summer.

**David Kimmorley**

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Postcode: 2580