

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

Tuesday, 9 May 2017

11:08:09 AM

I hereby submit to IPART that the proposed new benchmark solar feed-in tariff (which would approximately double the present common feed-in tariff) should be made mandatory. Power companies should be bound to a minimum fair rates.

There are principles involved here.

1. That each citizen and the state should support a fair price for solar because PV solar is a big part of the solution to the present broad energy-sustainability crisis (refer NSW situation discussed below ##)
2. The feed-in tariff should increase in line with the wholesale price of electricity;
3. The benchmark feed-in tariff should not just be a range, it should be regulated so retailers have to offer it as a minimum;
4. The feed-in tariff should represent the true value of solar, which will recognise the environmental and health benefits and the network benefits of rooftop solar;
5. Coal and gas fired power should be priced to reflect the heavy burden of health and environmental and climate disruption that these fossil fuels entail.

As a household we have made a commitment to renewable energy by

- Installing solar hot water heating (off-peak boosted, and
- Installing solar PV panels to 2.25kW, and
- Ordering further solar PV panels (with microinverters), plus a Tesla battery system, and back-up power circuitry / controller which are due to be installed this month.

These decisions and financial outlays are not driven solely by "cost savings" but by a sense of responsibility for survival of species (including humans), in an accelerating climate disruption situation.

The larger profit-driven retailers will likely resist this proposal because it means they'll have to pay solar owners closer to what their power is actually worth. However, it is appropriate to ensure that the true costs (including environmental) of energy are factored into the decisions about pricing.

I reaffirm that coal and gas fired power should be priced to reflect the heavy burden of health and environmental and climate disruption that these fossil fuels entail.

Note of NSW policy.

On Sky News the NSW premier is recorded as saying that the state is not yet ready to transition to renewables:

I want to say to the residents of NSW that we can't afford to transition to alternative sources too quickly, until we've secured those sources
Gladys Berejiklian [1] [Sky News, 4 May 2017.

Clearly, premier and the NSW Government have not been listening to the 78% of people in NSW who want to modernise our energy system, set a strong renewable energy target, and stop destroying the one and only planet on which the world's living populations can survive.

It is also clear that the NSW government has not read the actions of NSW citizens who have been investing in solar PV and even battery systems because they are concerned.

These vital and valid concerns include
first concern about the planet and species survival, and
second concern about sustainability of our so-called economy (that totally neglects to count the environmental impacts which allow us to LIVE), and
third concern about how unreliable the electricity supply is becoming BOTH in terms of delivering the power to houses and businesses AND in terms of fair and reasonable (sustainable) pricing – and even fourth concern about how Australia is becoming a pariah state on this planet, disregarding the true intent of the Kyoto agreement and its successors up to Paris.

We must act NOW and on a GRAND SCALE to avoid total planetary disaster.

So, my message is a wake-up call to NSW: this is the KISS of energy - Keep It Sustainable !!

Renewable energy, backed up by storage is now cheaper than coal, and that without even counting the cost of coal pollution (according to Reputex and Bloomberg New Energy Finance).

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority warned bank directors that they would be personally liable for investments with high climate-risk, like coal-fired power stations.

If we're to avoid two degrees of warming, we need to get to 100% renewable energy by 2030. That is simply completely 100% renewable by the year 2030.

Polls reveal that 67% of NSW voters and a majority of coalition voters NOW think that the government is moving too slowly on renewable energy (The Australia Institute Poll, March 2017)

Personally, I am really seriously angry about this, about the irresponsibility of some governments and certainly the fossil-energy corporations, and those seeking additional coal and gas resources to destroy the planet's climate and liveability.

Although I am here polite, public politeness will not endure any more corporate-serving planet-killing dangerous time-wasting delays by government agencies.

THE NSW ENERGY POLICY IS BROKEN. The present sustainable feed-in tariff is driving this state disastrously in reverse.

Please, FIX IT NOW.

Yourse sincerely,

Duncan Marshall

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