

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

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As a solar owner with battery storage, I do everything I can to AVOID exporting my surplus production. This is counter to the advantages that grid connect solar (with or without storage) can provide to the community. The reason is that when I buy from the grid it costs me 34c and when I sell back I only get 6c! This is grossly unfair.

I have recently purchased a 3Kw petrol generator with the intention of disconnecting from the grid entirely to avoid the \$1.50 daily connection charge. That is almost \$550 p/a for the privilege of buying about 150 Kwh per year at 34c (\$50 p/a) and selling about the same back at 6c (\$9 p/a). It would cost me about \$75 to generate 150 Kwh with my petrol generator.

So you can see that by staying connected I am effectively paying \$590 for 150 Kwh of power. That amounts to just under \$4 per Kwh! If I were to be paid 15c per Kwh AND the daily connection charge was reduced to say 75c, I would be more inclined to stay connected. I DO want my not inconsiderable investment to advantage the community. I believe that the nation grid, along with private and commercial battery storage can provide the load balancing capacity that we need in order for everyone to benefit from CHEAP, reliable, electricity supply. I should have my investment in battery storage and solar production, rewarded just as the electricity suppliers are paid for their capital investment.

It seems to me that it is time to remove the GREED motivation from the electricity market. Electricity supply in a NATURAL MONOPOLY and should be either carefully and fairly REGULATED or entirely opened up to competition so that small, medium and large producers can buy and sell entirely at their own discretion. The second option seems unlikely to work so lets REGULATE FAIRLY! \$1.50 a day connection charge is NOT FAIR! 6c per Kwh feed in tariff is NOT FAIR!

I support a fair price for solar; say 25c per Kwh at peak (when I am charged 34c, a margin of 30%) and 12c per Kwh at off peak (when I am charged 17c, a margin of 35%)

The daily connection charge should be ELIMINATED or greatly reduced.

Now that disconnection and reconnection are easily done remotely, disconnection and reconnection charges should be ELIMINATED or greatly reduced.

The feed-in tariff should increase in line with the wholesale price of electricity

The feed-in tariff should not just be a benchmark range, it should be regulated so retailers have to offer it as a minimum

The feed-in tariff should represent the true value of solar, this means recognising the environmental and health benefits and the network benefits of rooftop solar
Thanks to SOLAR CITIZENS for making me aware of this opportunity to make a submission!

cheers

David Palmer



David Palmer



Postcode: 2484