

I am writing to express my disappointment with the proposal to reduce the feed in tariff benchmark to 8-9 cents/kWh. I support a fair price for electricity generated at the household level from clean and renewable solar PV generation.

I was in a position financially to do my bit to shift the generation profile of electricity from non-renewable and greenhouse gas polluting fossil fuels to long term sustainable sources. Regardless of all the industry misinformation, this shift, if managed properly, would also reduce electricity prices for all NSW energy users.

I fully acknowledge that the 60c per kWh initially offered was ridiculous. However, 8-9c per kWh is equally ridiculous, especially considering that electricity retailers are adding about 20c /kWh to move this power to immediate neighbours!

I also note that last year, more than half of the retailers in NSW failed to offer a feed in tariff within the benchmark range. I hope it is not a case that the feed in tariff is not being adjusted to suit retailers at the expense of solar generating households. In any case, the feed in tariff needs to be mandated and regulated so that there is certainty for both energy retailers and household solar generators.

The feed in tariff settled upon must represent the true value of solar power generated at the household level. This means recognising the environmental and health benefits as well as the distributed generation benefits to electricity networks generally. I would be surprised if any genuine analysis undertaken in this regard obtained a feed in tariff result roughly equivalent to the current wholesale price of electricity (as the 8-9c per kWh is), especially considering that most of the electricity generated uses fossil fuel technology and has to be transmitted over large distances. It is not unreasonable to expect that a true and fair feed in tariff would be higher than the current wholesale price of electricity.

I have recently made a financial decision to expand my rooftop PV generation capacity based on what I was thought was going to be the long term pricing of feed in electricity generated. Changing this tariff significantly alters the economics of this decision. I suspect I would not be alone in this regard.