

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

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6:10:49 PM

Thank you for considering my comments in support of IPART's proposal to increase the NSW solar feed-in tariff.

I have invested in solar panels for over a decade now - at different residences. I have watched the feed-in tariff drop to what is now a ridiculously low level that inhibits the uptake of solar panels for the greater community. I was told when I installed my latest panels, on my latest residence (nearly 3 years ago now) that most panels at that time were being sold to retirees who had a personal commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It would take forever to pay them off.

Regardless, there are citizens who want to reduce their personal carbon footprint to the best of their ability. I am one of those.

At that time, the situation had come about because of the government's backflip on backing renewable energy in any way and their overt support for the dominance of fossil fuels like coal and gas to produce our electricity.

Well, the global market has dropped out of coal, and gas is simply unaffordable - especially given today's technological advances in renewable energy.

Now - even though the feed-in tariff is low - the opportunity of installing storage batteries is an affordable reality. The opportunity to become a self sufficient energy provider through the installation of solar panels and battery storage is more than appealing to most people. In fact, it is exciting.

If the present electricity providers want to keep their customers who have solar, they should offer a more attractive feed-in tariff. Otherwise, the uptake of storage batteries will see customers leave their current providers.

Of course IPART should recognize the value of home rooftop solar and increase the economic benefits to households.

Of course, retailers should support their customers and guarantee a fair return price for the product solar households provide to them.

Quite frankly, I don't think IPART's benchmark solar feed-in tariff of 11.6 - 14.6c per kWh is high enough to be fair. But it is better than nothing.

I say that because, we must collectively reduce our carbon emissions; the sooner we reach a renewable energy future, the less costs will be imposed on future generations. We should be encouraging a greater uptake of home solar electricity generation.

Yours faithfully,
Megan Benson.

Megan Benson

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