

Author name: M. Facer

Date of submission: Monday, 7 May 2018

Submission: "To Whom It May Concern:

A fair price should be paid to solar panel owners when they export energy to the grid. There are many reasons for this:

- 1) Household-generated solar electricity travels a very short distance before sale to other consumers for around 30c - 35c per kWh, so its transmission and distribution costs are much lower.
- 2) Since home-generated solar electricity is usually made during peak times like hot afternoons, demand for expensive 'peaking' energy (gas and hydro) has reduced. For this reason, average wholesale electricity prices have been reducing in recent years. This benefits all consumers, not just solar households, so all people and businesses benefit.
- 3) Solar energy is the way of 'the now' and the future, especially considering its social/health and environmental benefits. We all want NSW to be a forward-looking state.

Lower feed-in tariffs would actually drive more solar owners towards storage, further reducing demand from traditional energy suppliers, specifically during periods of high 'peak' and 'shoulder' prices. Retailer profits would reduce. Considering that feed-in tariffs are around 12c per kWh, the strikingly-obvious price margin against 30c means the business case to install an ever-cheaper battery is a quick back-of-the-envelope calculation for many households.

Looking at this margin another way, creative retailers like Powershop have been able to on-sell my electricity to neighbourhood consumers for a slight premium to normal, so there is a market for home-generated energy. I doubt that any energy retailer would willingly make a loss.

Please consider maintaining or increasing the recommended solar feed-in tariff in NSW.

Yours faithfully,"