

Dear Sir/Madam,

27/05/2013

Re: Solar Feed In Tariff Submission

We invested \$10,000 in a 4.8kw solar back to grid system last year. We did so whilst we were still working and earning the income to justify the initial capital cost but with the view that when we retired our electricity bills would be reduced.

We retired earlier than anticipated and now receive some benefit with the Net Feed in tariff from Origin Energy offsetting our daytime use. We are only using a quarter of the energy that we export back into the grid and we receive no return on the excess. Origin Energy is selling our excess "Green" power to their customers for a premium price yet we receive zero.

Under this logic, Origin Energy should also get their power for free from all the generators. We do understand that it makes no sense to go back to a heavily subsidised system such as the previous \$.60c Per KWH. This system favoured the rich at the expense of the poor who could not afford to install a solar system yet now subsidies their wealthier neighbours.

However the current system can hardly be deemed to be fair, where the service provider can at their discretion offer a price for excess power or not. In addition the price offered by a few does not even meet with IPART's recommendations.

For people to invest \$3,000 to \$10,000 on Solar or wind generators, a fair market value payment for excess power generated should be mandatory. Fifty per cent of the provider's retail price charged to the customer would be a fair payment and would minimize gouging by the provider. We are now charged 32 cents per KWH by Origin so 16 cents a KWH should be returned to us for any excess we generate. We understand that in cities, around 24 cents per KWH is standard so in that case 12 cents would be paid for any excess generated by the customer. Ipart should not just set a recommended fixed price, this system that is open to gouging. It should set a percentage payment based on the retail price the provider charges the customer. One standard payment based on the net feed in and priced at 50% of the provider's price for any power generated, (net or gross).

We are seriously considering going off the grid altogether. For another \$10,000 we can be free of any power bills and "Grid Availability" fees altogether. That however would be a real shame because our system generates more than we need and the excess green power would therefore be wasted.

Best Regards
Wanda & Gerry Aarts
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