

Availability Charge:

Minimal, or no price, for exported, solar generated surplus.

Availability charge is a contrived way for power suppliers to have their hand in the consumer's pocket.

Looking at power as a product, all costs involved with the manufacture of a Kilowatt of energy such as the cost of generation, maintenance of lines, reading of meters should be incorporated in the base cost of the unit – that is, the price charged to the consumer in the Kw/hr rate.

As it is now, however much the consumer cuts back on his power use there is forever the unrockable “availability charge” that sometimes even exceeds the cost of the actual power consumed in a billing period. This thereby allows the power supplier a steady income derived from a source that supplies no service to the consumer. If they are queried about this unfair surcharge, the answer is invariably take it or leave it (the supply of power), or IPART has approved it!

Incidentally, I have never heard of IPART ever refusing an application from the supply authorities for a price rise. Likewise I have never ever seen a reduction in prices, which should flow in regard to the rise and fall of cost of generation fuels.

Conclusion. As a consumer product the kw/hr price should incorporate all supply costs in its base rate. All other charges that do no service to the customer should be abolished forthwith.

Surplus Solar generated power exported to grid.

Currently, speaking for my-self, I get a fraction under \$0.08 per kw. I feed into the grid. This is a huge negative for anyone thinking of installing solar panels (thereby, helping to reduce industry outlays in increasing power generation and supply costs), the 8c is nothing short of laughable, this is on sold to other customers at the full kw/hr price. Again, a handy source of further income to the suppliers – virtually a gift.

At the very least we small time exporters of power should be credited at least on a pro rata basis for any power we export.

What does IPART do for we consumers, seems to me that what the supply authority ask for they get, on the other hand the consumer just has to cop it, price rise upon price rise.