

RAYMOND JOHN SWEETMAN

23rd July 2015

The Manager
Independent Pricing and Review Tribunal NSW
P.O. Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop
NSW 1240

Review of Solar feed in Tariffs

Dear Sir,

Whilst searching your web site for details on another review, I accidentally came across the review the Tribunal is doing regarding the setting the rate of the feed in per KW hour for solar power.

I was totally unaware that this review was being undertaken, and cannot recall seeing any advance publicity inviting comment from the public. I also note that you have stopped accepting submissions from the 13th July 2015. I do appreciate that there has to be a cut off time, but as an aged pensioner being affected by the diminishing rate level since its introduction I would sincerely hope that you make take into account what now follows.

When first introduced the rate was from memory around 60c a KWH. At the time solar installation was much dearer than it is today. Although in our late seventies, my wife and I got quotes and the net cost to us would have been over \$3,000. At the level of our consumption an estimated KWH we would feed in, we realised that we would not live long enough to recover that cost, before we then got the benefit of using part solar generated power.

However about three years back, we discovered that the cost of installing solar had dropped dramatically and we installed a system which cost us \$1,900. The feed in tariff had dropped to 20c a KWH. We still realised that we would not live long enough to recover the \$1,900 cost.

However being proud Australians and with the benefit of part solar power usage we would no longer be worried about running our A/C units so we installed the unit solar system. Last year we were advised by our supplier that the tariff had now dropped to 6c. This was quite a shock to us. Especially when, at the 20c tariff, we realised that we would not recover our cost but in the spirit of the Governments appeal for people to use solar power to overcome global warming we proceeded.

I'm sure you will appreciate that, rightly or wrongly, we feel that we have been let down by the Government.

Of course, I don't know that had we made this statement within the time period, this would be a consideration for the Tribunal. However I submit it for consideration.

Yours faithfully R.J. SWEETMAN