

Author name: S. Wyatt

Date of submission: Monday, 20 May 2013

Submission:

Thank you for reviewing what seems to me an extremely unfair and environmentally damaging policy - the virtual non-payment for excess solar produced electricity..

My submission is simple. The small scale solar production of electricity is arguably the best means of improving our environment. This should be encouraged, not discouraged.

It is also a way of reducing the need for future investments in massive new coal fired power stations. Small scale solar could save billions of dollars that would need to be spent on large scale stinkers - coal fired generating plants.

For electricity retailers to pay nothing for excess solar produced electricity, is indefensible on both commercial and environmental grounds.

Clearly Government is failing the people here.

I recognise that electricity retailers need to make money but also recognise Government has a role of ensuring our environment is not harmed. That is a primary duty of care of government as I see it.

That is not happening today.

Therefore a price must be paid to solar electricity producers that reflects the benefits of solar electricity production.

I know that IPART has proposed a price somewhere between 7.7 and 12.9 cents. That is not high enough to continue to stimulate the expansion of solar electricity production. The lengthy pay-back period makes the investment unattractive for the millions of individuals out there who could embrace solar energy.

To me the price should be between 13 cents and the retail electricity price of 33 cents. This is why I think 20c per KWh is fair and environmentally responsible.

Regards,

Stephen Wyatt