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Submission:

The current electricity supply situation in NSW and most of Australia is not sustainable and clearly designed not for efficiency, but to maximise profit to retailers and large scale oligopoly power generators. This is short sighted and places an unfair burden on NSW electricity consumers. Network connection fees have in the last few years increased at an extortionate rate. A much fairer system would be to abolish network fees and have people pay for power they use and fairly compensated for excess sustainable power they generate.

A federal government funded green (a carbon tax of \$10 per tonne of CO₂ on coal and gas exports would provide ample funds) loan and grant scheme could encourage domestic and small industrial users to become self sustainable in power through solar and wind power. All electricity generated by sustainable means at point of usage should be metered at in net arrangement, with the generator given credit for excess at the same rate the retailer charges. Power generated and used on site does not suffer significant transmission losses and significantly reduces network loads. The more distributed the power generation system the more robust, resilient to natural disasters and sustainable it can become.

Connection to the grid for small scale generators should not be charged, but they should be compensated fairly for the green power they provide to other electricity users. The development of Li ion batteries in the next few years should enable small scale generators to store and use sustainable power, such as solar 24hours a day. This would even reduce the load on networks even further, but the correct pricing signals need to be provided to small scale sustainable generators.

Government support to manage the high initial capital costs for small scale solar and wind generators would be good policy combined with a carbon tax on coal and gas exports. It would reduce our long term energy costs and redistribute the excessive profits made from the sale of the resources owned by the Australian people. It would also make for a more sustainable and equitable power supply arrangement in Australia.