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### **Solar Feed-in Tariff Review**

My husband and I have a solar panel system which allows us to feed into the grid. We are lucky that we have had the benefit of a feed-in tariff of 28 cents a unit.

If the feed-in tariff should drop significantly we, like many others in our situation, may come off the grid completely. This would be made possible by the fact that storage batteries are rapidly becoming cheaper.

It seems to me that, if enough people do this, the negative effects would be that:-

- The cost of power to those who are unable to have a solar system will probably go up or the Government will have to subsidise them because the overall costs of running the network would fall on a smaller population, many of whom are on very low incomes;
- There would be less power for the Hydro to sell to mainland states and the cost to produce it would be higher;
- There would be less private investment in roof-top solar; and
- There would be a loss of revenue to Aurora and TasNetworks.

On the other hand, if the government of the day was to encourage households to invest in solar systems and to stay on the grid by paying a reasonable feed-in tariff, the advantages would, both in the short and the long term, be substantial because:-

- There would be more power to sell to mainland states, particularly in summer when there is a high demand from hotter regions, thereby, helping to achieve the aim of making Tasmania the “battery of the nation”.
- The Hydro would have a greater capacity to preserve its energy storages for use when needed;
- The more households that invest in solar systems will, in the long term, make Tasmania less reliant on polluting systems, such as Bell Bay;
- The more power available to sell to mainland states may encourage investment in a second Bass link;

- The infrastructure cost of solar systems is born by individuals who can afford it and not by the Government;
- The use of solar power is an environmentally smart thing to do.

Given the above, it seems sensible to encourage people like us to stay on the grid by paying a fair and reasonable feed-in tariff. I believe a fair and reasonable feed-in tariff should be based on the average of the retail energy charges we have to pay when we buy from the grid. At the moment that average is about 17 to 18 cents. We would still be paying the various supply costs which, at the moment, total around \$300 a year.

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