

McGuffie, Jonathan (StateGrowth)

From: Grant Dixon <grantdixon@iinet.net.au>
Sent: Sunday, 29 July 2018 10:59 AM
To: solarfeedinreview (StateGrowth)
Subject: Submission to Solar feed-in tariff (FiT) review

Department of State Growth

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Submission to Solar feed-in tariff (FiT) review

Dera Sir/Madam,

Your consultation document states:

The objective of the Solar FiT Review consultation is to conduct a review into the policy settings to ensure that those who have already installed solar are appropriately rewarded, as well as identifying policy options that will incentivise further installation of solar.

We had the foresight to install a rooftop solar system prior to 2013 and so have benefited from the Transitional FiT rate due to expire in December 2018. This has been entirely appropriate in the above context however the current Regulated FiT Rate is neither 'fair' nor 'reasonable' in the same context.

It is the many Tasmanians like us who have kick-started Australia's rooftop solar revolution. There are many reasons why the narrow economic arguments on which the current Regulated FiT is based are inappropriate in the circumstances:

- The FiT should reflect the wider benefit of distributed solar for Tasmania, not just the costs avoided by the energy retailer. When all the generation, network, health and climate benefits are valued an appropriate figure would be much greater than the current Regulated FiT rate.
- Solar owners invest their own money to save energy and export to the grid, potentially reducing the need for new capital expenditure on generators.
- The feed-in tariff is paid only for energy fed into the grid, but the energy consumed within the premises also reduces the demand on the grid and hence reduces the need for expensive additional generation.
- Locally generated electricity does not use the transmission network and makes less demands on the distribution network – these network charges make up half the retail cost of electricity. It is therefore unreasonable that this does not seem to have been considered when setting past Regulated FiTs.
- Furthermore, if private rooftop solar is treated as currently proposed under the National

Energy Guarantee then this is an additional argument for rewarding those like us with the foresight to install systems that ultimately benefit everyone.

Apart from considering that the current Regulated FiT is manifestly inadequate and is not calculated on a reasonable and more inclusive basis, we also feel:

- When set, a minimum FiT rate should apply for at least 3 years. Annual changes to the FiT create uncertainty and do not allow people to make calculations to support a long term investment in solar.
- A no-cost metering solution that will allow solar owners to offset their solar generation against consumption on both tariff 31 (light & power) and tariff 41/42 (heating and hot water) should be implemented.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Dixon

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29th July 2018

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