

Community Garden/Kingston Men's Shed
Gormley Drive
KINGSTON TAS 7050 Australia

Department of State Growth
GPO Box 536
HOBART TAS 7001 Australia

Re:-Solar Feed- In Tariff Review

To whom it may concern,

I have been requested by members of the Kingston Men's shed to address the proposed review to the "Feed in tariff (FiT)" by the Director of Energy Planning, the Department of State Growth and the Department of Treasury and Finance.

I understand you have invited submissions from members of the public and interested groups to the Solar FiT Review.

We are a small body of members (namely 60) the majority being retired gentlemen who regularly meet at the Gormley Drive men's shed from Monday to Thursday each morning where we ply our past and present skills and mentor other members.

In the ongoing construction of the shed we have installed 14 Solar panels for which we currently receive a Business Feed in Tariff 120 for Energy step 1 and Energy step 2 (refer copies of Aurora accounts as supporting documentation). As we are currently receiving such benefits we would like to address the relative issues in points 1 to 9 in the invited submission relating namely to our organization.

Addressing Question 1 (*What changes could be made to current Feed-in Tariff arrangements.....*) :- If there were such changes to the feed in Tariff our organization would be seeking some form of compensation in the way of grant monies to upgrade to new forms of technology ie:- battery storage or increase the number of panels to offset any loss.

Addressing Question 2 (*Would those changes be likely to result in any other indirect or unintended impacts.....*) :- Any such changes to the tariff would certainly impact on our financial position such as being able keep our membership subscription to an affordable level to our members and keeping our Aurora accounts to a sustainable level. Many of our members are retired patrons who already face increasing costs of living.

Addressing Question 4 (*What are the social and environmental benefits and costs of rooftop solar generation ?.....*):- We see the *social* and *environmental* benefits go hand in hand as we would be seen to be a responsible organization contributing to the Kingborough Municipality just as we have already embraced the installation of Solar units and demonstrating to the members of our community that we can stand alone in the long term and not be a burden on rate payers.

Addressing Question 6 (*Are there alternative mechanisms (other than changes to Feed-in Tariffs.....)*):- As our organization has embraced solar roof top units in its early infancy we feel if we were to have our tariff reduced there should be some form of reward by way of partial subsidizing “**battery installation**” which would reduce the reliance of seeking continual government grants in the running of our shed.

Addressing question 7 (*Is there potential for rooftop solar systems, smart metering and battery storage systems to help manage or limit peak demand ?*) :- As outlined in question 6 we would embrace the use of battery storage if it were financially feasible for our organization .

As we are a small organization we have endeavored to address the questions relevant to us and I trust our submission will be accepted in partial format.

Yours Faithfully

Ron Middleton
for and behalf of the Community Garden/Kingston Men’s Shed