

SOLAR FEED IN TARIFF REVIEW

I am a Tasmanian resident/Home owner.

In 2012 i installed my first solar system and in 2017 sold the property and have installed another solar system at my current residence.

I am currently receiving a Carers Pension, so represent a low income household. A review into the Tasmanian Solar Feed-In Tariff affects me now and into the future.

Please find my submission as follows:

Please note: I wish my name and address to remain anonymous.

1: CHANGES TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES AND REWARDS.

My incentives to acquire a solar system were twofold:

1/ Financial, as i need to live within my means.

A solar system significantly reduces my power bills.

2/ Environmental, as my excess power contributes to the wider grid.

The current Feed-In Tariff of 8.5 cents is too low to incentivise others to install solar and by no means represents a reward for those of us who have purchased them.

A common theme of discussions with neighbours and friends was that "it was not worth it because the tariff was too low".

If we buy electricity for between 20 - 29 cents, how is it fair and reasonable to sell it back for 8.5 cents.

No reward for us.

2: INDIRECT OR UNINTENDED IMPACTS

My initial solar system was 1 kilowatt and my feed in tariff was 29 cents.

I have now installed a 5 kilowatt system because the low tariff meant that a small system would not reduce my power bills.

Many people currently on the 29 cent rate will be heavily impacted after the cut off date this year.

As a positive, many will upgrade and upsize the solar systems, but those on low incomes will be unable to and therefore their power bills will rise significantly.

3: CONTRIBUTION TO TASMANIA'S ENERGY SECURITY

Every new solar system installed in the state will contribute to the present Governments policy of 100% self sufficiency by 2020.

4: SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

For those of us on low incomes, solar systems equate to low energy bills.

Tasmania is flagged to become a Battery Bank for the nation, so we should be providing

strong incentives for an increase in the uptake of solar in the state.

The main incentive being Fair and Reasonable rates, which they are currently not.

5: ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS TO INCENTIVISE AND REWARD

Only an increase in the feed-in tariff will incentivise households and businesses to invest in solar.

6: OPPORTUNITIES TO BENEFIT ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

- Work opportunities for local Tasmania businesses and installers.
- Less financial stress on low income households

7: OTHER MATTERS

- All rental properties be required to install solar systems by 2020
- Holiday rental property owners can claim under the small business incentives of \$20,000 or less.

- Domestic rental owners would also be eligible for tax deductions.
- Tenants would be relieved of large power bills, enabling them to increase their savings to purchase their own properties.

- Public forums around the state to help people to see the benefits of solar systems and educate them on schemes available to help them finance new solar systems.

- A Tasmanian owned power company should be making profits FOR tasmanians not FROM Tasmanians.

Thank you for listening,
yours faithfully,
Gai Huddleston