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Sent: Monday, 30 July 2018 11:03 AM
To: solarfeedinreview (StateGrowth)
Subject: Review of Solar FIT

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To Dept. State Growth
Solar FIT Review

Sir

In 2011 I installed a 20 panel 3.5kw solar system for a number of reasons.

As a pensioner on a limited, fixed income I wanted to insulate myself from constant increases in electricity charges.

I also believe that solar produced energy is by far the most environmentally sustainable source of energy. It doesn't deplete or alter either the atmosphere or our water based ecosystems.

I believed that by personally allocating some of my limited financial assets I was helping Tasmania become more self-sufficient and independent of private companies whose main purpose was to make a profit for its shareholders instead of providing an essential service. I have no problems with private ownership of non-essential services but water, electricity and sewerage everyone needs and they should not become a licence to make money. This also should be true of essential services that are government owned.

These services should be charged at a rate that ensures sustainability but not a profit. If governments want funds for new projects they should raise taxes for that specific purpose not "milk" funds from overpriced essential services.

Since 2011 I have produced 26 333kwh of electricity that has been fed into the grid plus approximately 10 000kwh that I have used myself. In that time I have paid Aurora \$1330 and received from Aurora \$2317. As an estimation of energy used per week without solar energy I have saved \$5400. The \$1330 I paid to Aurora was mainly for the fixed charges, ie transmission and metering charges. Some of these charges I believe are not indicative of actual usage costs.

If the review board had reduced the FIT to .08 cents/kwh in 2011 it would have cost me \$5400 and in fact I would not have installed any solar system.

The electricity I have been producing has taken some pressure off Aurora, especially in times of drought or system failures. If there had been no installation of solar systems in Tasmania, how much extra would it have cost Aurora and major industrial companies to cope with the regularly occurring water shortage in our lakes? We are sitting on a very precarious balance energy consumption and water storage capacity.

If the government is serious about making Tasmania energy independent by 2022, they should be encouraging every Tasmanian to invest in solar power.

Currently the excess power I produce is fed into the grid and consumed by my neighbours. I receive .28cents/kwh and Aurora charge approximately .25cents/kwh for the energy I produce and paid for. These rates vary according to

how the energy is used in the home. If my FIT is reduced to .08cents/kwh Aurora will be making an extra .17/kwh that I paid for the production of.

I realize some investors have installed large solar systems as an investment/money making scheme that does not necessarily provide energy for their home. I believe that pensioners who have invested their limited capital to reduce home energy costs should be considered in a different category from these large scale operations. Pensioner FIT for systems under 5kw should receive at least .25/kwh.

A further ambition of government is to reduce peak demand power, this is being done by some private companies by increasing charges at peak times, another impost on consumers.

Another way to do this is to encourage solar system customers to invest in energy storage systems such as capacitor or battery banks. However these are quite expensive.

I would consider this form of investment only if the FIT is maintained at a level that will allow me to use the moneys I receive from producing solar energy. At .08cents/kwh this is not going to happen. Some people who have significant spare capital might do this but most pensioners will not be able to afford this.

I urge the Review Board to consider the long term implications of creating any changes to solar system incentive schemes that do not encourage everyone to invest in this environmentally sustainable source of electricity.

In some parts of the world legislation has been passed to ensure all new homes have solar installations, just like it is now mandatory to have insulation in new homes. If many Tasmanian households are significant energy producers it will go further to make Tasmania energy independent.

Jeff Jennings