From: F and W Gipters
To: solarfeedinreview (StateGrowth)
Subject: Submission to solar feed in tariff review
Date: Sunday, August 5, 2018 4:06:15 PM

To whom it may concern,
We currently have operating a Mini Hydro system, generating 4-5kw/hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our system is connected to the grid and we currently export all of the generated electricity via a meter which is separate to our residential meter.

We have been fortunate to receive thus far a generous price for the power we have been generating, however if the feed in tariff is reduced to the current 8.541c/kw it will become impossible for us to pay off the installation and maintenance costs in a reasonable time frame (in excess of 20 years on top of the seven years it has currently been installed).

We installed our system in 2011 as a green investment and to contribute renewable electricity to the grid.
Whilst we would like to be paid parity for our exported power, we realise that this perhaps is not sustainable but feel the low rate of 8.541c/kw is totally unjust compared to what we pay for imported power on our residential system.

Given that 8.541c has been deemed a fair profit/price for power would it not be fairer if we received a tariff comprising of the existing retail rate minus 8.541c/kw. Therefore allowing the electricity retailer Aurora to make 8.541c/kw profit once they onsell the power to another residential customer.

Currently as we are connected to the grid we pay a network services fee which is included in the supply charge, if we were to disconnect from the grid, we would not be contributing to the upkeep of the network and other service charges, the more people to go off grid equals fewer households to contribute to transmission costs which in turn will increase household electricity bills for those not in a position to go off grid. If more people are encouraged to generate power and stay connected to the grid by means of a fair and just feed in tariff, the burden of the network service fees would be spread among many. It would also mean less batteries in the environment, because even though they can be recycled, recycling does require energy.

Tasmania has lost resources and knowledge due to the instability of the small scale generation policy. The company which assisted our initial installation has withdrawn from the state, this resulted in job losses. There are many opportunities in Tasmania for small scale mini or micro hydros, and therefore industry to support and supply them.

Other options which we think could be fairer are:
- allow us to sell the power direct to neighbours etc at a negotiated price with them, the technology to do this is currently available and is being implemented in other parts of Australia.
- Treat hydro generated power separately with a higher feedin tariff to solar as hydro generates 24/7.

We thank you for the opportunity to make our submission.
Regards
Fiona and Wayne Gipters