

Solar Feed-in Tariff Review in Tasmania

SUBMISSION FROM:

**LN and JJ Hadaway
283 Kent Beach Rd
DOVER
TASMANIA 7117**

NEED TO SET PARAMETERS:

There is no comparative analysis of the benefits and costs of rooftop solar systems against other power sources used in Tasmania.

This restricts comment on solar feed-in tariffs to subjective rather than objective assessment.

Despite the 'Energy Strategy 2015' and the lauded Tasmanian Government encouragement to invest in solar power there is nothing to confirm how government will achieve 100% self sufficient renewable power by 2022, or that Tasmanians will have the lowest regulated prices in Australia by this date.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT MUST COMPLETE AND PUBLISH A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF POWER SOURCES CURRENTLY USED IN TASMANIA.

NEED TO ENCOURAGE MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY USE:

Consumers should know what 'significant benefit' they receive from installing rooftop solar both now and into the future.

Especially should the 'grandfathered' or first installer, solar people know what benefit they might have with the reduction of the feed-in tariff that is being proposed, i.e. from .28283c to .8c.

It is unlikely that any empowerment of consumer choice [2 of the Vision Statement in the Energy Strategy 2015] will ever be met if the reduction of feed-in tariffs proceeds.

The supply charge to residential users is currently 94.636c per day. Wholesale prices for electricity are flat. Consumption is forecast to remain flat. The cost of networks will significantly increase and these costs are fixed.

Why would anyone install rooftop solar that feeds into the state grid given the above?

The falling costs of alternative energy, including solar and other 'green' energy will drive customers off grid and exacerbate network costs anyway, without pressuring present solar users by reducing their feed-in tariff.

CUTTING THE FEED-IN TARIFF WILL FORCE THOSE ALREADY USING SOLAR TO GO ENTIRELY OFF GRID AND WILL EFFECTIVELY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL SOLAR USERS WHO MIGHT CONSIDER STAYING ON GRID.

NEED TO INTRODUCE COMPETITION TO THE MARKET:

TasNetworks and Aurora are divisions within a single state owned entity. There is no competition in the Tasmanian electricity market.

How long will it take for the state government to realise their claim, 'a competitive retail market will deliver the best outcomes for consumers' [p17 Energy Strategy 2015] is inconceivable in the current structure?

As there is no competition, there is no recourse for consumers against:

The proposed lowering of feed-in tariffs

The continuation of consumers subsidising the big four international companies that use more than half of the state's electricity as they have done for the last fifty years

Having to cover the write down of network assets

A top-heavy, inefficient, state owned company that urgently needs improved governance arrangements

THE STATE GOVERNMENT MUST LOOK TO EMPOWERING CONSUMER CHOICE NOT RESTRICTING IT.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT MUST LOOK TO A BETTER USE OF OUR EXISTING ASSETS [e.g.HYDRO], AND SO FACILITATE STATE GROWTH SO THAT WE THE PEOPLE, THE ULTIMATE OWNERS OF THE ASSET, BENEFIT OR,

THE STATE GOVERNMENT MUST SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF COMPETITION AND OF DIVESTING ITSELF OF AURORA AND TASNETWORKS.

NEED TO MANAGE THE FEED-IN TARIFF FOR CONSUMERS ALREADY USING SOLAR POWER

Do not reduce the feed-in tariff for consumers who have installed solar already. Most can afford the alternative and will go completely off grid.

Make arrangements to accommodate new consumers by reducing subsidies to the four major companies who have been favoured above residents of Tasmania for too long.

Do not weigh consumption based, feed-in tariff against fixed network costs.

Look at the long-term future of TasNetworks and Aurora already faced with a [constantly] reducing consumer base. First keep the feed-in tariff so solar is affordable, at a predictable rate and second set a new rate for new solar users that is fair and equitable into the future.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THE FEED-IN TARIFF FOR THOSE ALREADY ON IT.

Lance and Jennifer Hadaway
Dover
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