

Minimum feed-in tariff review 2021-22

Submission received through Engage Victoria

Date submitted: 22 November 2020

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From 17 November 2020, we began accepting submissions on our Minimum feed-in tariff review 2021-22 via Engage Victoria (www.engage.vic.gov.au). On this website, people were given the opportunity to send us a response to a set of questions we provided.

Your comments on this draft decision:

The ESC recently scored a small victory for the consumer by ruling that retailers had to honor contracts for 12 months. Your proposal to allow only 5 days notice of a change to the FIT reverses that.

The lowering of the FIT to 7.1c is disgraceful. I use this emotive language appropriately because it has been reliably reported by the ABC, The Guardian and ACOSS that alarming numbers of people are presenting at emergency wards suffering from hypothermia and heatstroke as a result of not being able to afford heating and cooling. People have died for the same reason.

The ESC maintains it has no control over retail pricing but while-ever this is the case the public is likely to see the current scenario repeated: More people do "the right thing" by installing solar, the wholesale price goes down due to increased output, the FIT is lowered, but retailers benefit from lower costs while continually increasing prices.

The ESC needs to do its part, show some social responsibility, raise the FIT to 12c and don't allow non solar consumers to be punished for it. Why is it that retailers, generators and distributors cannot accept that they ought to have a smaller piece of the pie? After all, with the mass uptake of solar, they are providing less and less.