

Minimum feed-in tariff 2023-24

Submission received through Engage Victoria

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From December 2022, we began accepting submissions on our Minimum feed-in tariff review 2023-24 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.

What parts of our proposed methodology for setting the minimum single and time-varying feed-in tariff rates do you consider are appropriate?

It is reasonable to begin with the wholesale cost of electricity and to set a minimum feed-in tariff but the approach taken needs to move beyond market parameters. We have 7 years left to set an emissions reductions trajectory to avoid climate catastrophe. This is not a business as usual scenario.

What parts of our proposed methodology should we change?

The thinking behind the methodology is market driven and this needs to change. We are in the midst of a climate emergency and the public interest needs to be prioritised here, not the vested interests of market players. The need to increase grid capacity for distributed energy across the state should be the task of market providers in consultation with the government. Rooftop solar owners are not energy retailers. They contribute green energy, a social good, and play an important role in greening the grid and raising public awareness of the benefits of renewable energy. Raising the FiT is arguably a breach of contract with existing solar owners and will be a disincentive for prospective solar owners. This is not in the public interest.

For our overall methodology, or parts of it, what alternative methodologies should we consider?

Competition occurs at a level where a carbon contribution is minimised through the setting of minimum standards. Otherwise, if the logic of this paper follows, it will be nigh impossible for the Victorian Government to meet its ambitions for a low-carbon economy. We would prefer a cap on the price of power, a price set for the retailers and wholesalers, with the FiT for rooftop solar owners remaining constant so as not to deter the uptake of rooftop solar which is an important element in greening the grid and mitigating the climate crisis. We have no time to lose. We cannot

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afford to discourage ordinary citizens from doing the one important thing they can towards cutting GHG emissions.