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Fair price for solar power

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To whom it may concern,

I am a one year old resident to Australia, a pensioner, and one of the first things my wife and I did after purchasing our home was have solar panels installed to take advantage of Australia's glorious sunshine. I had wanted to use solar power for many years at my previous residence but due to the high cost of installation and too many cloudy days annually, it just didn't make sense. Now though, it doesn't make sense not to, especially if a person has any concern for our future on this planet. Well, unless you consider the continued declining tariff feed in.

When I moved to Victoria I thought Australia was at the forefront of alternative energy usage. And although Australia has a greater percentage of it's population using solar than any other country, the Abbott government seemed to me to be doing everything possible to crush the industry and push the use of coal. I was very discouraged for the future of residential solar use in Australia. But now things have changed and the future looks brighter.

After learning that I could have all of my grid supplied electricity come from "green" sources rather than coal, I switched power companies. I will pay a little more than I was and I also will pay a little more on top of that (\$0.05) for "green" power, but knowing that I am doing what I can for my grandchildren's future world is worth it. I also will get \$0.015 more with the new feed in amount from this company, a bonus. That shows me they are willing to help home owners go "green".

Part of the problem I see with Australia's solar energy program is the feed in tariff the power companies pay back to the home owners. It's pathetic and certainly not an incentive for home owners to switch. I am currently being charged \$0.21 kwh with a feed in of \$0.065. I understand that the power companies paid huge amounts of money to build the grid that my solar power is being sent out on, but for them to be able to resell that power at 3 or 4 times their cost, when their cost to produce it is actually nil is ridiculous and unfair.

The world must end it's dependence on fossil fuels and promoting alternative energy with a fairer feed in tariff is one way home owners can be convinced that our government is behind it's citizens in this mission.

I have invested my hard earned money toward a better future for our children. I feel a minimum feed in tariff of 75% of kwh charged would encourage more home owners to move to solar power.

I hope Australia will take the lead on this important issue.

Thank you