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**I want a fair go for solar**

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To the Essential Services Commission - Inquiry into the true value of Distributed Generation to Victorian Consumers

As a solar panel owner I had two reasons for making our investment. One was to save money, the other to help mitigate climate change.

On the first we were initially really happy as we had an old fashion spinning daily meter. We made more electricity than we used so no paying for electricity needed. Then that meter was replaced by a smart meter. Despite making more than we use and now getting paid for our excess, we have fairly large bills back as we get so little for our contribution and have to pay so much more per kw to the power company. We had capital expense, probably more per kw than a power company so how is this fair. We appear to be donating money. Surely the power companies are not registered charities.

On our second reason of mitigating climate change these cuts to feed in tariff seem to do the opposite. We just had the Paris Climate Change Conference which recommended really strong and fast action but the government still seems to be supporting fossil fuels over encouraging solar power. If not a 1:1 price ratio then it should be a higher payment for the clean electricity rather than encouraging fossil fuel use by not rewarding the installation of solar panels.

I strongly urge the ESC to immediately recommend to the Andrews Labor Government to set a fair price for solar at 1:1, before further cuts to the feed-in tariff take effect at the end of 2016.