

Barry Grant

**VIC Govt: Inquiry on True Value of Distributed Generation**

11/2/16

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make the following submission to your enquiry, with specific regard to residential solar-generated electricity and its associated tariffs:

1. Peak electricity/energy demand is now hot summer days (air conditioners) rather than in winter (heating)
2. Residential solar-generated electricity assists meeting this peak demand
3. Demand is not increasing as dramatically as originally expected, and may even reduce
4. Additional coal-fired baseload power stations and additional network infrastructure (poles and wires) will not be required, and pollution will be reduced
5. Wind-generated power is also contributing to pollution-free energy generation
6. Excess solar power is usually fed back into the grid to be distributed across the current network as required
7. Solar Feed-in tariffs have been reduced, going from the 'sublime' to the 'ridiculous' in the last 5 years - from 60+c/kWh to 5c/kWh
8. The Residential solar feed-in tariff should reflect the contribution the private solar owner is making to the grid and environment, and be set at a minimum of the wholesale electricity price PLUS a reasonable margin, eg. 10-15c/kWh
9. Finally, Solar customers should not be discriminated against by the energy companies and placed on the highest tariffs possible (ie. Peak and Off-peak). It seems ironic, a conflict even, that energy companies are selling solar installations with one division, and then charging the same customer the highest rates with another.

Many thanks for the opportunity,