

Daniel Smith

**We need a fair go mate.**

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

Solar Energy is clean energy, one might be mistaken into thinking the Paris climate talks didn't take place, we need more solar energy not penalties, we should be encouraging people to uptake solar and help in reducing the very polluting coal power production. Solar owners should be paid a fair price for the energy they create. A fair feed-in tariff for solar power would be the amount it costs to buy that energy from an electricity company - a 1-1 unit price. We are all still paying high service charges to the big producers even if we don't buy any power directly.

Most of the big new ideas in the past decade or so have at their heart a distributed system, that leverages scale to reduce cost and increase profits. Just think of the miriade of transaction that take place on the Internet or the move for banks first to ATMs and then to net banking.

Distributed solar energy reduces the infrastructure costs, increases reliability, reduces potential major system failures. These all will increase the profits of the big power companies. One of the major Australian power players is now offering battery backup, they are joining the push. History is littered with companies that did respond to new ideas and technologies when they come along. History is also littered with governments who don't respond to their constituents needs.

We don't need another drawn-out review, when there are Victorians facing an 80% cut to their feed-in tariff at the end of this year. We need a fair price for solar and a modern, efficient grid that supports distributed generation.

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

