

Robyn Lansdowne

Inquiry into the true value of distributed generation to Victorian consumers

12/1/16

To the Essential Services Commission

I installed solar panels on my roof in 2011 for both environmental and economic reasons. I am alarmed at the recent cuts and proposed further cuts to the feed-in tariff for home generated solar power. I understand that you are conducting an enquiry into this issue. Please take my submission into account.

I submit that a solar owners should be paid a fair price for the energy they create, and that this fair feed in tariff for solar power would be the amount it costs to buy that energy from an electricity company - a 1-for-1 unit price. This is required to move the state to renewable energy at an acceptable rate and also as a matter of basic fairness, if power companies can on- sell the benefit of solar power they obtain from my home at a higher rate than what they pay me.

I appreciate that not all electricity consumers are able to easily install solar power, and do not think that they should be required to subsidise those who can, such as myself. However, nor should electricity companies profit from my enterprise and commitment to the environment. If energy companies have overcapitalised on poles and wires or otherwise failed to appreciate the move to renewable energy, then they should bear the economic consequences of their failure to foresee the future, like any other private enterprise would do. Consumers should not pay. In particular, people who can install solar power should be encouraged to do so by a fair feed-in tariff and those who cannot install solar power should be protected from power increases.

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.