

Bill Barton

Feed in tariffs from residential solar installations.

10/2/16

The following is a submission regarding the above:

I had a 3 kW solar generation system installed in May, 2015, at my then recently purchased residence at 42 Garden St., Benalla. My reasons for the installation were primarily to do something for our environment and also to help in reducing the scandalously high electricity charges of recent years. So far as I was concerned, feed in tariff rates were a lesser consideration.

The installer appointed to carry out the installation did a very commendable job and completed all necessary paper work regarding approvals and notification to the supplier I had chosen, namely Energy Australia. Over the period of some eight weeks following I experienced what can best be describes as deliberate and quite unnecessary difficulties by Energy Australia. This resulted in my requesting assistance from the Energy Ombudsman to resolve the problems caused by the supplier. This action led to a solution in a relatively short time.

As a result of that experience, I now believe that energy supply companies have a vested interest in deterring the installation of residential solar systems and the continued reduction in rates of feed in tariffs for excess generation fed back into the grid strongly supports this negative and obstructive sort of behaviour by these companies.

As well, this continued rate reduction in effect is subsidising the ability of these suppliers to continue to impose ever increasing rates on consumers. I have little doubt that this subsidisation serves only to inflate the already bloated profits of these companies and it certainly acts as a very strong deterrent to the necessity to install much more solar generation capacity by individual citizens.

I also believe that governments and/or the bodies setting the rates of feed in tariffs are derelict in their duty to address the obvious effects and threats of climate change by decreasing these rates. If these rates continue to be reduced, it will without doubt represent a gross failure to support and encourage every possible action by individual citizens in their desire to assist in fighting climate change. Instead of reduction, these rates should be being continually increased at a reasonable percentage yeah on year.