

Peter Schachte

Victoria needs fair feed-in tariffs

22/1/16

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

Victorians already pay more for electricity than most places in the world, despite the fact the power is generated from abundant cheap coal. The Victorian government should be serving the interests of Victorians, rather than the energy companies.

Right now, I would be paid 5 cents for generating a kilowatt hour of electricity that the power company would turn around and sell to my neighbor for upwards of 25 cents. There are not too many business that can get away with a 400% markup. This policy is clearly unjustified, and is actively discouraging me and many other Victorians from going solar.

2015 was the hottest year on record, breaking the previous record set in 2014. World temperatures have already risen almost half of the 2 degrees considered safe, and continue to rise at an alarming rate. The government should be doing all it can to encourage homeowners to install solar panels. A fair feed-in tariff would do for Victoria what it has for Germany, spawning a large new industry and drastically cutting greenhouse gas production.

I strongly urge the ESC to recommend that the Victorian Government to set a fair feed-in tariff of close to the retail price of electricity.