

Kim McConchie and family

Current solar power considerations

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To the good folk considering the matter of solar power, the feed in tariffs, and all other matters pertinent to my children's future:

as a current solar power producer, I have been disappointed at the attitude of energy companies to households trying to offset both the retail cost of power, and the impact of power production on our environment. There is a great opportunity for our country to develop effective use of community based solar power sharing, and if managed competently, would have the energy companies leading this development to get the greatest return on the pole and wire infrastructure that they manage, and still be able to provide shareholder return through the income self managed solar (and other renewable energy sources) could provide.

Today's incentives from energy suppliers to householders to equip themselves with solar power resources - at the householders expense, plus any govt incentive program that may support this - is almost an insult, and shows short term return thinking on the part of their management; the proposed reduction in feed in tariffs would make one think their bonuses and salaries are more important than a 50 year view on the nation's future...assuming they know what a long term view is of course.

Now there comes the following standard points for consideration, which I will quote verbatim, and which should form part of the consideration (and note I agree with them, but also note as a retiree I look at the future my children face with both hope, but also with a real understanding of how corporate and human greed will always work to keep the current power status quo - and political will to change this is usually lacking)

Rooftop solar power is more valuable and delivers more benefits than dirty, polluting fossil fuels and the price paid should reflect this.

Rooftop solar owners just want a fair go. It's not fair that retailers are able to buy cheap, exported solar from one house and sell it to a neighbour at an inflated price.

The costs that networks (the companies that own the poles and wires) charge for solar power should be minimised as rooftop solar puts less strain on the grid due to its decentralised structure. Indeed, solar power helps reduce the costs of the grid by averting the need to build more expensive poles and wires and minimising loss of electricity.

Battery stored solar power that is exported to the grid should attract the

same price as solar power.

Rooftop solar power creates no carbon pollution, no particulate pollution and does not create other environmental and other health problems such as those associated with the mining, transportation or burning of fossil fuels.

There ends the lesson and the standard statements; I will conclude by observing that with the closure of major manufacturing and support industries - the car industry retreat from Australia will pose one of the greatest economic problems we could face, and compounded by the collapse of the resource sector, the future looks as bleak as it could since the crash of 1930 - our country can take a path of becoming a neo third world, service based country with no real manufacturing or technical base, or could become a future leader in environmental power development and manufacture. The recommendations you provide are either an acorn for the future, or will be a dead hand that limits the future for generations to follow.