

Norman Henry

## **Value of Small Scale Solar**

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I attended the presentation at the Warrnambool Golf Club today. Many thanks to the presenters.

### **Some observations and comments.**

1. I came away with the view that consideration of Private Solar Installations appears to be underrated. It is easy I believe, for such installations to be considered as a personal choice by home owners who are able to afford such installations. To an extent I guess that this is true, however for most installations there is the consideration by the owners that their action will not only be of benefit to them but also add to the National effort towards Climate Change Responsibility. It is not dissimilar to the value to the National Environment of the Installation of Water Tanks.

**In our case the cost of the PV Installation was \$16,000 in March 2012. We have a 5kW System which is producing annually approximately 7400kWh. At present I estimate that our power cost saving post installation to be approx 30%.**

2. The value of the current varied FIT's unfortunately demonstrates the short term political considerations presented by Governments and what might also be seen as short term political gain. I understand the need to consider the cost to industry of infrastructure etc, but the Home Owner has also incurred a cost which does not seem to be adequately considered. At present we receive a FIT of **28c**. As you would be aware this FIT will cease in Dec 2016. The presentation noted the possibility that a future FIT structure may consider varied rates based on the current Peak, Off Peak & Shoulder. It was also noted that consideration could also be given to " Environmental Offsets" ????. In this regard, you would be aware that quarterly accounts identify the Estimated GHG Emissions for the period. I assume it would be possible in the future to identify the GHG savings resulting from each Solar Installation.

3. As technology improvements occur, the option for Battery Storage will become more of a reality and it does appear that the likes of AGL appear to be positioning their business to meet the necessary adjustments. Hopefully they and others will bring the community along with them. It can only be assumed that as commercial and perhaps community based installations evolve the steps towards improving our environment will be seen to be progressing. In the mean time it does seem to me that each PV installation needs to be given equal " Real Value " to both the owner and Industry that is able to access the excess power produced.

In the current environment, I would like to think that it was not too naive to consider that whether it be Wind, Solar or other, there is an opportunity for Government, the Community and Business to join together for the benefit of all parties.