

Tony Smith

I want a fair go for solar

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

I am in favor of a 1 for 1 solar feed in tariff. If that does not pass the test of economic model long, then I suggest solar owners be paid the equivalent of generators - i.e. When demand goes up, the price goes up. I am aware that at times of peak demand, power within the NEM can and does reach \$10 per kWh. Why then pay solar owners 5c when others get \$10? How is that either fair or reasonable?

Further there must be some network benefit in terms of avoided costs that distributed generation affords - why do solar owners get at least some share of these benefits?

Finally households that install batteries should be rewarded for their part in reducing network stress at times of peak demand. Models such as Reposit that allow stored power to benefit the grid needs to be encouraged and the people who provide this infrastructure must be rewarded accordingly.

My home has batteries - we basically do not need the grid except at off peak times. If the grid does not want to pay a fair price for our excess power, it will take very little additional to cut the tie and go completely off grid. I would suggest the ESC does not want to play with creating the perfect conditions for grid defection and the consequent death spiral. Technology has advanced such that the centralized grid is at similar risk to the dodo. Why then create the exact economic conditions necessary to start the slide? Seems to me that that would be a very courageous decision....