

David Kennedy

## **Roof top photovoltaic power and other opportunities for economic growth**

10/2/16

The Minister

It is quite clear that the world of power generation is changing. Australia is in an excellent position to take advantage of this change, But only if the political will is there to do so.

The key points:

- energy production is moving away from fully centralised to a more distributed model worldwide;
- the use of electricity in Australia is falling, and has been for some time due to changes in technology (such as LED lights or more efficient white goods) and fundamental changes in people's behaviour; and
- there are much more efficient ways of producing electricity than burning something that produces a whole range of emissions that cause multiple problems throughout the environment and to the population.

Changing to a renewable energy infrastructure makes good economic sense and will also benefit the community directly by such things as lowering the death rate due to particulate matter released by the burning of fossil fuels of all kinds. Also, fossil fuels are feedstocks for things far more valuable than merely burning them.

Government should be encouraging and supporting people to help create this distributed network, moving from rooftop solar panels to combinations of battery and solar, further reducing the load on an ageing system by distributing it. What other endeavour is viewed so positively by people whereby they will contribute so much money willingly to change a fundamental utility? All they need is reasonable incentives to make this happen. It doesn't have to be over the top, but it must be fair.

I highly recommend reading <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2011/january/jacobson-world-energy-012611.html>

It is political will, not technology or cost that will allow Australia to make the transition. If other countries do it first, then we condemn our children to a second class future.