

David Brush

Submission regarding solar power costs and charges

10/2/16

Dear Sir or Madam,

I note that the Victorian Government is conducting an inquiry into the value of rooftop solar power and offer the following comments as my submission.

1. My wife and I invested in solar panels for the same reason we invested in solar heated water technology. The saving in ongoing costs is pertinent but the real value is in reducing the coal powered electricity (and gas) component of our contract with our energy retailer (Origin).
2. We purchase the "Green Energy" option offered by Origin despite this being at a premium on dirty electricity.
3. We pay a premium therefore to buy clean power but also have to pay \$0.35/kW plus all the administrative add-ons while receiving \$0.06/kW for energy we export to the grid.
4. Origin has recently advised they are experiencing additional costs in sourcing "green" energy yet the price they pay us has not increased.
5. Our solar generated power when used by us suffers no loss in transmission as it would if transmitted over kilometres of poles and wires (for which power companies have been condemned for "gold-plating" their infrastructure).
6. Rooftop solar power generation obviates the need for poles and wires although dirty power transmission is totally reliant on the grid being in place.
7. Our solar generated power creates NO pollution thereby saving the environment and associated "clean-up" costs. This is therefore a double dip saving for the government and Origin, both of whom can claim action taken by the public as their own.
8. By using solar (and buying green) power we are saving additional pollution being created by the mining of fossil fuels (coal, gas or oil mining are all carbon intensive activities).
9. As battery technology improves, individual households should be encouraged to become independent of the grid by investing in home power storage thereby taking strain

off the grid and removing the impetus for any further gold plate standard poles and wires.

10. I submit that the price paid by Origin should better represent the true value of that power but recognize that the company can presently hide behind mandated prices for power fed back to the grid by people such as we. It is this mandate that removes the potential for rooftop solar generators to sell their electricity to the highest bidder and this mandate should be removed as it is effectively a subsidy to the power retailers.

I trust this submission will be taken in due note and look forward to a constructive outcome from the inquiry and, importantly, government.