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We need fair feed-in tariffs for solar

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

I am disappointed about the way solar owners are currently treated when it comes to feed-in tariffs. Currently, solar owners are paid a pittance for the energy they feed into the grid, which is then onsold at at five times that price. This is simply not fair.

I believe that solar power that is fed into the grid should be paid as much as it costs to buy that energy from an electricity company - a 1-for-1 unit price.

Distributed energy generation like rooftop solar is doing great things for our environment and helping us meet our renewable energy targets. We should be supporting it, not making it less attractive.

In fact, we need to move away from coal to clean energy like solar as quickly as possible so we should be giving people incentives to install solar, including through fair feed-in tariffs.

At the moment, our regulations are protecting the private profits of big power companies, when they should be looking after the interests of ordinary people, and future generations.

I am very concerned that there are Victorians facing an 80% cut to their feed-in tariff at the end of this year.

I would like the ESC to insist that the Government sets a fair price for solar at 1:1, before further cuts to the feed-in tariff take effect at the end of 2016.