



'Helping build a renewable energy community'

PO Box 1002, Upwey, Vic, 3158

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SUMMISSION ON VICTORIAN FEED IN TARIFF

We feel something is wrong with the system of Feed in Tariff's when a retailer can purchase a household's solar power for 5-6 cents per kWh and on sell it at a premium rate as clean, green, renewable electricity. The householder is the one who has invested money in the solar equipment yet it is the retailer who is reaping the benefit.

As a matter of equity this situation should be corrected. We believe a FIT of about 15c per kWh would be much more equitable.

A secondary reason for this change would be to encourage energy efficiency. The present FIT could be encouraging a 'use it or lose it' approach where households choose to consume their solar power rather than sell it for a pittance. Instead the FIT should encourage the conservation of this solar power so it can be fed back into the grid (especially in peak periods) to help bring down the wholesale price of power for all consumers.

We also feel a 'one for one' principle should be adopted for community owned renewable energy projects to encourage these initiatives.

If a community group installs a solar system or some other form of renewable energy system where the proceeds will be going back into that community enterprise they should be able to sell their renewable energy for the same price as what they buy grid power for. This principle should apply when grid power is needed for the operation of the project such as a 'behind the meter' solar project.

Finally, the regulation that allows power companies to pay households a lesser FIT if they add to their system should be abandoned. The regulations should not penalise households trying to do the right thing. Similarly, if a household installs a battery system they should not be penalized in any way.

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