

Sue Watson

Promote solar in a fairer way

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

Australians have taken to solar in a big way - and will continue to do so only if the feed-in tariffs are fair.

More individual rooftop solar systems will help Australia achieve its internationally agreed emissions reduction target.

However Australia is not moving away from coal quickly enough. We need to update the regulatory system to encourage more rooftop solar installations and also make it fair for those already installed.

Power companies can buy a household's excess solar energy for 5c, and sell it to their neighbours for 25c. This is just not fair. It is protecting the private profits of big power companies and the expense of Victorians who want to move to the most efficient renewable energy sources - the sun.

Victorians don't need another drawn-out review, when there many of us are facing an 80% cut to their feed-in tariff at the end of this year. We need a fair price for solar and a modern, efficient grid that supports distributed generation.

I strongly urge the ESC to immediately recommend to the Andrews Labor Government to set a fair price for solar at 1:1, before further cuts to the feed-in tariff take effect at the end of 2016.