

Minimum feed-in tariff review 2022-23

Submission received through email

Date submitted: 9 January 2022

Submission written by: Anonymous 15

From 2 December 2021, we began accepting submissions on our Minimum feed-in tariff review 2022-23 via email fitreview@esc.vic.gov.au

Additional comments on this draft decision:

- The wholesale cost of electricity is going down. Our electricity costs have risen astronomically in past couple of years.
- The cost of electricity has fallen due to decreased demand. I question this as since Covid for more than 2 years people have mainly been required to work from home. The rebate for our solar panels has plummeted from 32 cents. The cost of the family electricity bill has never gone down.
- An argument for solar customers having to lose more in our rebates is that because there has been an increase in solar use, we must pay more for the distribution costs as otherwise those who have not paid for the cost of installing solar panels would need to subsidize this. This means in effect, those with solar panels must pay twice, once for the cost of installation and twice to avoid those with no panels having to pay "extra".
- The report advises those with solar panel to save money by using items such as washing machines during the day. This put a further stress on the system especially when air conditioners are also in use. Powershop is asking people on certain hot days to reduce their electricity during peak times by not using their electrical appliances etc. as they are afraid there will be a power failure as the grid cannot cope.
- This new review again does not specify the social costs of carbon and costs for human health due to air pollution as there was no evidence or data available. I think the time since the last report would have provided you with sufficient time to find some evidence that there is a definite advantage in providing clean solar power as opposed to dirty fossil fuel. I put it to you that there is much evidence available on the high costs to human beings' health and well-being due to air pollution.
- Climate Change has been shown to be linked to the burning of fossil fuels. Climate change is a reality. Recently there were serious fires in winter in America and the next

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day it snowed. There was over 600 mls of rain in one day in Queensland causing major flooding.

We installed solar panels in 2012. at a great expense and originally got a very short lived, 32 cents rebate. Now we will only receive a fraction of that. The panels have not yet recouped the cost of installing them. We are now pensioners, and the cost of utilities is ever increasing. We used to make enough on our panels to have an excess in summer and spring. Now our rebate covers only a small percentage of our bills. We try very hard to minimise our power usage and in fact, as a couple, often use less than the average single person uses.

The electricity we produce is worth less and less, our prices have gone up considerably since the instillation. The money goes to the company not the producer. Yet the company can resell our electricity that we produce at a higher price. They are the winners, not the producers with panels. This extremely unjust. Your report says that if the tariff is the same rate as electricity prices the companies would need to increase their prices to cover costs. I agree that they may incur a cost, which should be covered, but their prices compared to the rebate, are many times the cost of the rebate.

We would like to invest in solar batteries to overcome all these problems and keep the money that our panels produce but at present the batteries are too expensive and we have not yet made a profit from our panels. I am also shocked to hear that as I received a rebate for installing the solar panels, I would not be entitled for a rebate on installing a battery.

Your review is not worried about Climate Change and is only concerned with the impact increased solar use will have on the profit of retailers not on the benefits for householders who have paid a large amount of money to install them, yet have still not covered the costs.

I am extremely disappointed that the panel has come to the conclusion to lower the rates instead of increasing them.