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From: stuart [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 September 2012 2:20 PM
To: General Electricity Address
Subject: Feed In Tariff Submission

Queensland Competition Authority

I am a relatively small consumer of electricity retailed by Energex. I chose several years ago to pay an additional tariff charge (Greenpower) so that all electricity I consume comes from renewable resources. This continues today.

I make the following points regarding a fair and reasonable FIT for Queensland:

1. The current scheme(s) in Queensland and other States and Territories are very complicated, change frequently, and lack clarity regarding their principal reasons for existence. The FIT schemes need to be recast with simplicity and certainty as guiding principles. Are we trying to save the planet, reduce network peaks/losses, create a robust viable solar industry etc.
2. The current Greenpower tariff is about 25c/KWhr, or approximately a 5c/KWhr premium to the standard tariff. Small solar installations are getting currently 8c/KWhr on a net metering basis. Surely renewable energy has a producer cost and a consumer price which have some relationship with each other. At first glance this looks like small solar producers are now being asked to subsidise consumers by 12-17 c/KWhr depending on whether they use standard or Greenpower tariff. Who is the beneficiary of what looks like a profit making scheme to the detriment of small solar producers. Surely a fair FIT would be similar to the Greenpower tariff charged.
3. Cost of installations and FIT revues. Many people make their decision on whether or not to install a FIT solar system based on the projected return on investment. I believe there should be regular review of FIT's similar to normal electricity price reviews. This review should have regard to the cost of production ie. installation costs. There is no doubt installation costs are falling and this should be reflected in future FIT contracts.
4. It is probably not part of this review but some national coordination of all this sorely needed. I feel for the companies and employees involved in the solar industry in Australia who have not been able plan for the future given the erratic regulatory environment. I note that the only solar panel producer in Australia recently closed.
5. I repeat, simplicity and certainty please.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these views.
ps. I have no connection with the solar industry.

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