Submission to Queensland Competition Authority

Draft Determination – Solar Feed-in Tariff 2026–27

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. rooftop solar generation
2. battery storage
3. low grid import
4. high solar export

I am a residential electricity customer in Queensland with a rooftop solar system and home battery. I would like to provide a practical user perspective on the proposed reduction in the solar feed-in tariff.

1. grid import is approximately 40–60 kWh per month
2. solar export is approximately 500–700 kWh per month

My household represents a growing segment of distributed energy users:

1. the value of exported solar energy (low and decreasing)
2. the cost of imported electricity (high and often time-dependent)

Based on my actual usage:

1. Exported energy has very low financial value
2. Imported energy remains significantly more expensive
3. Households are strongly incentivised to maximise self-consumption
4. However, during extended periods of low solar generation, households are exposed to high electricity costs

From this perspective, I would like to highlight a broader system issue beyond the feed-in tariff level itself.

1. the role of distributed energy resources in supporting the grid
2. the investment made by households in solar and battery systems
3. the need for cost stability, not just average cost efficiency

While the proposed reduction in feed-in tariff (from ~8.66 c/kWh to ~6.15 c/kWh) reflects market conditions, it further widens the gap between:

1. incentives for exporting energy (low value)
2. risks associated with importing energy during low-generation periods (high cost exposure)

1. discouraging export entirely
2. increasing reliance on behind-the-meter storage only
3. reduced engagement with the grid as a shared resource

In practice, this creates the following outcome:

1. better balance export value and import cost exposure
2. support households in managing variability due to weather
3. recognise the system benefits of distributed solar and storage

This leads to an important observation:

On-grid households with solar and battery systems can experience cost behaviour similar to off-grid systems during low-generation periods, while still paying daily network charges and relying on the grid.

From a consumer perspective, this reduces the perceived value of participating in distributed energy generation and storage.

I understand that feed-in tariffs should reflect wholesale market conditions. However, I believe the current and proposed structure does not fully account for:

In particular, there is a growing mismatch between:

This may lead to unintended behavioural outcomes, such as:

I would encourage consideration of mechanisms that:

In conclusion, the issue is not solely the level of the feed-in tariff, but the overall interaction between tariff structures, solar generation, battery storage, and consumer risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Kind regards,

Krystian Litwin