

From: Leigh Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 September 2012 9:24 AM
To: General Electricity Address
Subject: QUEENSLAND TO APPROPRIATE HOUSEHOLD PV

SUBMISSION RE THE ABOVE by LEIGH & SHONA JONES

Wants to force solar home-owners to buy from the grid

By [Richard Chirgwin](#) • [Get more from this author](#)

Posted in [Policy](#), 14th September 2012 06:55 GMT

Queensland's new state government has put forward a proposal that will startle homeowners with solar PV electricity installed: the homeowner will be forced to sell all of the power generated on their roofs to the grid at a reduced rate, and will buy all the power they consume from the grid at full retail prices.

The proposal was published in August, but has gone unnoticed until now – with submissions closing Monday (September 17). In Queensland, the 2011-12 midday revenues had fallen by fifty percent from 2007-2009 levels – and for a government that's scrambling to reverse a slide in its credit rating, that represents a crisis.

As the report states:

Gross metered PV customers draw all of their energy requirement from the network and therefore pay a network charge for all of their consumption (fixed and variable components) the same as other, non-PV customers. This approach could be considered more equitable than net metering in circumstances where network charges are not cost reflective

That last phrase – “where network charges are not cost reflective” – is important. What it says is that the power industry suffers from a structural problem, and instead of restructuring network charges so that they recover the costs, the government is going to coerce solar PV owners to stop cheating the system by buying less retail electricity than the people next door.

To [quote](#) *Climate Spectator*:

"Sorry, you've replaced your halogen downlights with LEDs and installed an energy-efficient fridge that's reduced the amount of revenue the Queensland Government-owned network business can earn. We demand you reinstall the

halogen downlights and buy a massive two door fridge with ice dispenser effective immediately."

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are sick and tired of being told by "experts" in the Government to do what we can to help the environment, in this case, to assist power companies by producing minimal current of power to feed back into the grid. After evaluating the cost versus the benefits we spent \$15000.00 because it would help towards carbon emissions and we would benefit by a reduction / elimination of our power bills. Now we are being told by the same "experts" that the contract we have with Ergon until 2028 will be "NULL AND VOID" and will only pay us a pittance for our power, but to buy it back we would have to pay more than double for the power we receive. The only reason they are doing this is because the solar program was so successful that it is eating into the profits of the (government owned) electricity companies and therefore reducing the state's finances. We believe the government has no right to pay us less for electricity that we contribute to the grid and we should not be forced to pay a higher tariff for the electricity we use, just because the utility companies business model, has squandered the money they received when we were all paying full price for power and hasn't kept up with the times and maintenance or improvement on infrastructure.

We are also told that it is not fair to neighbours who have to pay the full tariff rate for their power, while we pay less. What is not fair is that after spending up to \$15000.00 we are told unapologetically by the government "experts" that they are taking what we produce and give us nothing for it.

These government "experts" are only giving us lip service when they talk about helping and industry or environment (such as protecting the Coral Sea and then allowing a super trawler to rape our coastlines). It is only and all about MONEY and pressure brought to bear from multi-nationals whether it be oil, power, telecommunications and other like companies, on our government.

We are Queensland taxpayers and pay our taxes without question. We are also Queensland VOTERS and will be negatively impacted by this change. The best the government can do is tell these companies to honour our contracts, or are we to believe that these contracts were only lip service as well. We also wish to advise that we will consider the result of this when we next vote.

Regards,
Leigh & Shona Jones

