

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the solar FiT inquiry.

I joined the solar industry thru training for my accreditation in jan/feb/march 2008 as an add on to my electrical contracting business.

Since receiving my accreditation the means testing of the solar rebate has cancelled all of my prospective clients.

We have now completed one job for a client who installed a 3.5Kw system despite not qualifying for the rebate.

I have informed my client that the FiT will not apply to her due to the government cap of 2Kw. This in itself seems like a very poor decision to cap the very people who are taking their own initiative and hard earned cash to install a solar system for the better good.

In my opinion, the FiT is a better option for the solar industry than the govt. rebate as it is a continual payback and has the potential to make a solar system a viable option for domestic & commercial power producers. With the gross FiT all the power produced from the renewable energy system is separately metered and paid a premium for, then the power used by each consumer is metered and paid for in the same way as today. The cost of the Gross FiT goes thru to each and every consumer in the country as a minor addition to their power utility bill. The biggest up side is the fact that it will distribute any govt. costs out to the very consumers that are creating the greenhouse gases in an even and fair way. The potential costs to each household according to the German FiT model is around \$2 per month, this seems like a very cheap and reasonable amount for all to handle. Putting the onus onto the consumer as an addition to their power bill distributes the cost of renewable energy to the greater community and has the added benefit of creating a cleaner greener mindset which may in turn create a community that is more conscious of their power usage.

So in conclusion, the responsible decision for this government is to create the Gross FiT to assist the solar and renewable energy industry and guide Australia towards it's renewable energy targets in a positive and economically viable way.

Regards,

Austin Vaughan

**Laser Electrical - Moorabbin**