

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008

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Submission from:

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I have a 1.2kW grid connected PV system on my house in East Perth. Installed long before PVRP and at a cost of A\$23,000. An early adopter and a very strong advocate for renewable energy and solar generated power and heat.

I have watched the progress of SA and QLD and their so-called Feed in Tariffs (FIT) with dismay and read the false and misleading statements generated by their spin doctors.

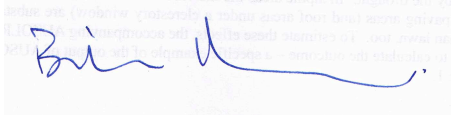
Put simply: A 1kW array will generate about 5 – 6 kilowatt hours a day. When most consumers are over 10kilowatt hours/day and in Queensland the figure is nearer 30, they can only hope to offset a fraction of their demand.

FITs as currently promoted (ACT is the exception) will have limited or no effect on the need for power generation infrastructure (coal fired) and zero or limited financial benefit to the household. The consumer thinks they are “doing their bit”. They are, in that they support the PV manufacturers and installers, but not in any significant measure the reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions. In fact the reverse may be true in view of the embodied energy in the PV systems.

The ONLY viable way forward as proven in Germany and several other countries is to enshrine in Federal legislation a structure that allows to the owner of the installed system to be paid for ALL generated electricity (whether sent out to the grid or not) a sensible price per kilowatt hour. The range of 40 – 60 cents may be appropriate. For the time being, there should be a cap on the system size at 50Megawatts (reviewable). This would certainly enable the likes of logistics companies and others with large warehouse buildings to generate an income from their premises. Good examples are Woolworths and Coles. Community groups, local shires and many others (as has been seen in Italy) are thus enabled to make significant differences.

I recommend the German legislation. I believe also that PVRP should be phased out and

the political “control” removed entirely. There should be no question of means testing at all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Parker", is shown on a light gray background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr Bill Parker