

Submission to the Senate Committee on the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed- In- Tariff) Bill 2008.

I live near Perth, in Western Australia. We are halfway through the process of having a 1KW Photovoltaic system installed on our house.

It is my opinion that the Government should do as much as possible to facilitate the take-up of PV technology.

The last few summers, the WA Government has been pleading for people to try to conserve electricity if they wish to escape 'brown-outs' during the summer, due to demand for air conditioners. The government says it is going to have to build another coal-fired power station. On really hot days, it is unlikely that many people heed these pleas.

Also, the recent explosion at the gasworks on Varanus Island severely restricted the supply of gas to WA and was a red-flag warning that the gas supply is very vulnerable to bottlenecks.

How much better it would be if electricity were generated by many small, distributed sources rather than a few large, isolated sources; rooftops are the perfect solution, and the distribution grid is already in place.

Additionally, the most electricity will be generated from the rooftop sources on hot summer days, just when it is most needed, which, hopefully, would remove the need for yet another coal-fired power plant.

At the moment, the current mood of the populace, in regard to energy, is one of urgency. People feel the need to take action. Putting solar panels on their roof is something that individuals and families can do. Now is the time to forge ahead with PV projects. There is no doubt that there were many people prepared to take up the challenge. New businesses were springing up all around to supply and build PV systems. Many new jobs were being created, which were suddenly eliminated.

Australia could lead the world. We need to give it a go.

Sincerely,

Patricia Scott