



18 August 2008

Committee Secretary  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**Re: Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts:  
Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008.**

Committee,

Having been involved in the renewable energy industry for the past ten years in the manufacturing sector and more recently in the deployment of renewable systems, I have witnessed the 'boom and bust' cycles of rebate schemes. In order to provide certainty for investment in the renewable sector and more specifically, solar PV, a broad based market mechanism such as a feed in tariff is required.

Previously, I have worked for a German based multinational in the PV industry and experienced the impact a well crafted government incentive can have in developing an industry in terms of technology development and more importantly, large scale employment opportunities.

Thus, I would urge the Australian Government to adopt a Gross feed in tariff (FIT) for solar PV. I believe the following elements are core to the success of a FIT:

- Gross Generation - that is, the feed in tariff applies to all the electricity generated from the solar PV system NOT just the electricity that is surplus and exported to the grid.
- Open to all sectors and uncapped - that is, the scheme applies to all sectors not just the residential market and is not capped in terms of system size or program. Commercial businesses such as Supermarkets, factories, office buildings, churches should all be encouraged to invest in a solar PV system and be rewarded when they do.
- PAYBACK – The FIT is set at a level that will provide a payback on the capital investment within ten years, around five times the current electricity purchase rate.
- LONG TERM – The scheme should guarantee payments for 20 years and be open to applications for 20 years.



I would urge the Australian Government to be courageous and provide the type of market based incentive that will ensure the Australian PV industry becomes a great success story in terms of investment in renewable energy based employment, research & development and behavioral change in energy consumption.

Sincerely,

Michael Rush  
Business Development Director - Solar  
Storm Sustainability Ltd