

20<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Simon Birmingham  
Liberal Senator for South Australia  
61 Henley Beach Road  
Mile End SA 5031

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**RE: Means Testing of Solar Rebate Grant**

**Attention: Mr Simon Birmingham**

Dear Simon,

I am writing to voice my objection to the federal government's recent decision to apply means testing to solar rebate grants for residential properties. The introduction of means testing is contrary to the messages the federal government was portraying in the lead up to the last federal election. The federal government portrayed a view that renewable energy was a significant part of Australia's future and an integral part of reducing our green house gas emissions. Now that they are in power this is clearly not the case.

The government's decision to apply means testing to the installation of solar panels on residential properties sends mixed messages to everyday people about the government's commitment to reducing the Australia's carbon omissions and slowing the affects of Global Warming. The message that the federal government is sending to the general population is that if you earn over \$100K per year then we are not interested in helping you to reduce your green house gas emission and carbon footprint so keep on polluting all you like. On the contrary if you earn under \$100K per year then we will give you a substantial rebate to help you reduce your carbon emissions. I have no doubts that the government are aware that the majority of families that earn less than \$100K are struggling and probably cannot afford to install solar panels anyway.

The federal government needs to show come consistency and commit to reducing Australia's green house gas emissions and stop playing around with half assed headline grabbing tactics. If the federal government are serious about reducing the affects of Global Warming then they should immediately reverse the decision and remove the means testing on solar panel installations so that all Australians get an equal opportunity for government assistance if they are passionate about reducing their green house gas emissions.

I would be interested in attending the public hearings of the enquiry and voice my strong objection to the current means testing qualifications.

Regards

Janine Healey