

As someone with a tertiary education, a long professional career as a scientist, and with a household income of over \$100,000, I would welcome the installation of solar panels as a small but important contribution to the climate change debate.

In Hobart, however, such panels were not available in 2007, so we adopted the alternative reverse cycle heating on the grounds of energy efficiency. We would prefer to be using the energy naturally generated by the sun.

I believe many households in my income range already understand and appreciate the value of solar panels in terms of saving electricity and hence reducing carbon emissions.

While I would be prepared to invest in solar technology even without the rebate, I believe there are many similar households to whom the rebate would be a critical factor in their decision to install solar technology.

Re-instatement of the Government rebate would also doubtless encourage manufacturers to invest in our State, especially given the high number of sunlight hours we experience. As a matter of urgency, there should be a survey of existing skills available, and appropriate educational and training opportunities set in place, as already solar panel experts including Martin Green from NSW have gone offshore to meet their manpower needs.

Finally, I would support any moves to improve both public awareness of the importance of solar energy as an alternative to existing sources of non-renewable supply, and urge the Government to re-instate the rebate to a higher income level.

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