

The Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Inquiry into Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008 (No 2)

I am extremely disappointed and disturbed by the fact that the government introduced the means test threshold of \$100,000 on the \$8,000 solar rebate per household.

Instead of supporting every possible means of emissions free power generation, in particular the solar industry, it is stifling the very simple and easily accessible solution to this problem. Instead of encouraging the public with financial rebates to put solar voltaic cells on every house, factory, school and warehouse and thus creating a multitude of jobs in research, production and installation it is strangling a promising industry and leaves the Australian public stunned at the stupidity, or is it hollowness, of the government.

Every interested person by now is familiar with the success of the solar industry in Germany, a country with much less sunshine but obviously much brighter policy makers.

I thus submit the following:

- Increase the means test threshold to \$150,000 and than reduce gradually until phase-out at \$180,000.
- increase the minimum solar rebate for households to \$10,000.
- Increase the rebate to \$15,000 for installation of bigger schemes that allow household to feed more surplus electricity into the grid.
- Make installation of rooftop collectors mandatory for schools and hospitals paid for by state and federal subsidies.
- Industry to produce a percentage of electricity with solar (or wind)generators and pay more for coal-fired generated power .
- Make similar, smaller , rebates in relation to solar hot water generation available in addition to those already in place instituted by councils.

Dieter Nikolai

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