

I wish to take this opportunity to register my protest at the introduction of the \$100,000 per annum means test above which the \$8000 dollar rebate for the installation of PV panels for electricity on domestic residences.

During the election campaign prior to the last federal election, the Labor party were claiming to offer an alternative to the Coalition government with respect to the environment, spruiking about their commitment to Kyoto and alternative energy development and use, including solar panels on domestic residences.

However once elected, we have seen the Rudd government actually discouraging the installation of the PV panels by introducing a means test on this initiative.

I fail to see how a government that introduces such a means test can in all honesty claim to be committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, when in fact the introduction of the means test actually discourages the installation of the PV panels.

This applies in particular in Victoria where we all know, and are told over & again, that the majority of electricity is generated by coal fired power stations, massive contributors of GHG emissions. One would logically think that all means available to governments to reduce our reliance on the coal fired power generators would be encouraged and subsidised as necessary.

Every installation of PV panels reduces our reliance on coal fired electricity generation, and one would think that assistance and encouragement to install such panels would be a high priority for government, instead of the current policy of discouragement.

Not only should the installation of the PV panels for domestic residences be actively promoted by government, but a government actually committed to GHG reduction ideals would also be offering incentives for industry to also install PV panels with cash rebates available.

Regards
Gaye Neaves