Submission No 49

INQUIRY INTO ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, DEMAND AND PRICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I have a house with a solar PV system installed in 2007. I have benefited from the excessively high 60c feed-in tariff and now am receiving only 12c/kWh. In my opinion the pricing signals are wrong, and this and a whole host of other issues should be addressed by the Retailers. This change of methodology will require enlightened planning and this has been sadly missing. Domestic solar, batteries, energy management, and energy efficiency all need addressing. A fully functioning Grid should be a compendium off gas (peaking and backup) + big solar + wind + distributed storage (pumped storage and battery and some others) + industrial load management (including load shedding by mutually agreeable terms) + domestic solar and batteries and domestic load management. Domestic users like me should be ENCOURAGED to use the Grid, otherwise it will become a stranded asset. To bring this combination into play will require support from out Federal Govt in harmony with the States. The financial incentives with regulation should reflect the need to home in on the best combination of the above. I anticipate a time of day feed-in tariff equal to spotmarket price may be a start. And all homeowners should be offered as a package an energy audit of their home + quick, cost effective upgrades to reduce power needs. The States should go it alone rather than wait for Federal leadership.