

**Submission
No 122**

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

Name: Ms Lyn Eccleston

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It has come to my attention that the NSW Upper House are holding an Inquiry into the electricity system and energy retailers gouging consumers.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise my political representatives of my opinions on the matter.

Firstly, I believe that electricity retailers, in general, have not been fair in looking after solar system owners, in particular with regard to the feed-in tariff, which I feel needs to be compulsorily regulated with a fair price for all.

My own personal experience with our retailer has been quite good, having regard to my most recent research on pricing, so I choose to stay with the same retailer I have had for many years. I feel that loyalty plays a big part in getting the best deal, when push comes to shove.

However, I think NSW needs a legislated minimum feed-in tariff that is fair, otherwise some people, who are not willing or do not have the skills or internet to do their research and to talk turkey with their provider are left with very small feed-in tariffs and inordinately expensive rates for the power they use.

The feed-in tariff should represent the true value of solar; this means taking into account the environmental and health benefits, and the network benefits of rooftop solar.

Power companies can no longer complain about the increasing drain on their power plants, wires and sub-station networks. With ever-increasing numbers of households fitting solar systems, their biggest worry for the future is the fact that many households are looking at fitting, or retro-fitting, battery systems, and going wholly and completely off grid, which will severely affect the income for the power companies. They are running scared!

It is my firm belief that rooftop solar and renewables are the way of the future:

1. Every household should be subsidised to fit solar systems to their homes, thereby decreasing the need for grid power.
2. Special attention should be given to providing extra assistance for households in remote areas with no readily available grid power, to fit battery back-up systems to solar and wind systems on their properties.
3. All future funding should be directed to the creation of new technology, renewable power generation - NOT old polluting sources of power.

I would appreciate your reply in due course.

Sincerely,