

**Submission
No 174**

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

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I have had my 5Kw solar panel system working hard for me and the environment, trouble free for ten years now. As an early adopter, the motivation was to produce my own power and to produce clean power. I did not expect to get my money back or to make a profit.

I wanted to inspire others and to show that this was an alternative to purchasing dirty power off the grid. I am very happy that I chose to go solar and I can recommend this to others. I also see great opportunity for communities and councils to legislate and make it mandatory for any new dwelling and commercial buildings that have the appropriate north orientation to be fitted with solar panels. This could over time minimise the future daytime load on grid power. I will defiantly purchase a battery to maximise usage after the sun goes down when its more mainstream and affordable.

There are obstacles that I have encountered that are obstructing the proliferation of solar panels in this country. And that is the lack of transparency and the lack of assurance with feedback tariffs. All power plans and deals are stacked more heavily in favour of the power providing companies like Origen, Energy Australia etc. Regardless of how self-sufficient you are or how big your solar system is, the big providers are going to make you pay, one way or another.

Regulation and legislation also favours big business and these big three power providers. You just know your being ripped off every time a bill or invoice comes in. Just like going to a petrol bowser.

This needs to change to a fairer system where the small home generator receives a fair price for power it returns to the grid, just like any big power producer. I think it is also fair that something goes back for poles and wires infrastructure. I recently read about a Peer to Peer system that was more equitable to all and this is something that should be managed by a government body. Count me in on that!

I have two young adult children and I am greatly concerned about what kind of world we are leaving them with toxic pollution left from fossil fuels. This Government has totally lost the plot in regards to its energy needs for the future demand. Yes, I understand there is a need for peak demand usage. However, there is a more environmentally and cheaper options available. (Solar, Hydro, wind and Battery backup) But no incumbent government has the backbone to commit to a sustainable and morally correct option that will benefit our children and their children to come.

This is all about fat cats and the captains of industry lining their own pockets first, with public health and interest a distant thought in their thinking and mindset.