

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Solar Citizens

Submission:

16 January 2020

1/377 Montague Road,

West End, 4101, QLD

Dear Essential Services Commission,

Solar Citizens has recently collected our supporters' submissions to the Minimum Feed-in Tariff Review 2020-21. In this file there are 68 individual submissions from solar owners who might be affected by these changes; one submission per page starting from page 2.

It is important to note that the below comments are not Solar Citizens' submission. Rather Solar Citizens is forwarding these submissions to you on behalf of each of the individuals listed in the file.

Not all of the Victorian solar owners who wrote a below submission would consent to theirs being made public, so please keep them all anonymous.

Kind regards,

Stephanie Gray, Campaigner at Solar Citizens

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Helping to reduce the cost will always help in the uptake, but please also make sure installation companies are properly regulated and don't unnecessarily pass on the cost to customers who aren't in the position to install solar.

I have had two solar companies, take a deposit (using me as a free loan) and make unreasonable demands on me (eg buy new roof tiles in case THEY break something) in order to refuse to do the installation.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

In this terrible period of the burning of our lands, forests, animals, villages and towns I would expect everything possible to be done to move totally to renewable energy, especially that of the sun.

The massive power source that is the sun, it seems to me, is the way to go in this dry land.

Tariffs should encourage battery storage at all levels

Rooftop solar saves all consumers by reducing demand and pushing more expensive generators out of the energy mix, and this is not reflected in the reduced minimum FiTs.

I agree it's good that retailers will be required to offer time-varying FiTs to better reflect the value of solar exports later in the day.

However a higher return would help Victoria which is still behind when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar. Further reducing FiTs will not help the state go to leadership.

Even though we renters have persuaded the landlord to put in solar - hot water - is excellent - we have not had success with energy for the rest of the house needs.

The climate situation is so urgent please relook at your proposals. Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The PM has told us that electricity rates will go down. Quite the opposite is still happening.

FIT's should be at an acceptable level, higher than present, certainly not lower and the FIT should be tied to the electricity rate so that it is not devalued as rates increase.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Let's see - recently my electricity provider advised that once again they were increasing their electricity prices. The explanation for this increase was given as 'mainly due to the changes in wholesale and network costs for electricity'. They went on to explain that 'we estimate the new rates will increase the average electricity bill by only about 3.7%'. They also advised that 'Your solar feed in tariff (FIT) is not changing'.

With available discounts , the electricity I use costs around 26.20 c/kWh. Then of course there is the daily supply charge of 89.79 c/day. The feed in tariff (FiT) I receive is 12.00 c/kWh.

I'm assuming that the electricity I export to the grid via my rooftop solar is sold to consumers at around 26.20 c/kWh. That equates to a profit of 14.20 c/kWh - over 118%. Between the excessive fees and charges paid by consumers , along with the huge mark-up on electricity fed into the grid from rooftop solar , it is no wonder that these energy companies make millions in profit.

A fair and equitable system would have the solar feed in tariff fixed at a percentage of the cost of electricity to the consumer. This way , whether the electricity cost moves up or down , the FiT will adjust accordingly.

I recommend that the solar feed in tariff be set at 75% of the cost consumers are charged for electricity.

This would allow electricity providers to still make a fair profit on electricity exported to the grid from rooftop solar and the owners of rooftop solar to receive a fair return considering the cost of installation and reduced environmental impacts of solar energy.

If the FiT is not made more equitable for rooftop solar owners , I have reached the stage where I will seriously consider turning off my inverter at times when electricity exported from rooftop solar is most relied upon in the grid - and I will be campaigning for other rooftop solar owners to do the same.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Dear Sir,

I have become aware that the FIT for rooftop solar is being reduced by your request. I believe if anything that should happen, is that it should be increased and not decreased. It is already about half of the off-peak rate whilst many do not even get time of uses tariffs any more. The retailers are already profiting from solar roof top households. The electricity consumers are simply being ripped off by investing in rooftop solar to help the environment and electricity supply. The supply of electricity from whoever it is sourced should be of the same cost and that it be passed to that supplier. That is treating rooftop solar electricity suppliers the same as the big suppliers/distributors. That means a unit parity of supply and feed in tariffs for all. Doing the opposite by doing it your way is a hindrance and not an assistance to move to a clean energy future. I urge you to think about this.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

All electricity consumers benefit from rooftop solar by reducing demand on the system as well as cost, whilst maintenance to aging coal fired generators face increasing costs with increasing emissions. Varying time of use (FITs) is a forward step in encouraging battery take-up, but the proposed 0.3 cents increase over the current 12 cents makes for no incentive for battery take-up.

We are still so far behind by world standards for the uptake of renewables even when compared to countries like Spain, Portugal and Morocco where I visited last year. They are so far ahead of us it's not funny. At this point of time the 12c/kWh should remain in order to achieve an increased take-up of rooftop solar.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The savings to electricity generation through solar rooftop is not reflected in the FIT price paid to households.

Many of us chose to go solar in 2007 to contribute to the growth of renewables and it was indeed an ethical decision rather than a financial one.

We would consider going with the variable pricing as we're very low users at 2.5 kWh p day on average. However the 12c FIT offered at peak time does not reflect our considerable input t the peak load time.

Paying low power use customers a decent price will benefit the State and power transmission at peak times and provide some incentives for us to move to battery storage.

Many of us earlier solar users and low users are on pensions and really support renewables but we need recognition in the pricing.

In many respects Victoria is leading the way in climate and future renewables policy but we are behind in subsidising the significant contribution from rooftop solar. Come on Victoria lead the way.

Take note Essential Services Commission - we're expecting you to take notice of us, you need us!

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

We are a family of 4 living in regional Vic. We have a 5kw system and no battery. We receive around 12c FIT which is pretty pathetic given how much it costs to buy from the grid.

Rooftop solar saves all consumers by reducing demand and pushing more expensive generators out of the energy mix, and this is not reflected in the reduced minimum FiTs.

It's good that retailers will be required to offer time-varying FiTs to better reflect the value of solar exports later in the day, but the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is much too low to incentivise battery storage uptake.

Victoria is still one of the worst in Australia when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar.

Further reducing FiTs will not help the state improve.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Everything goes up except feed in tariffs. Most systems are dead in the water after 3pm.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Reducing the FIT for solar does not help reduce carbon emissions in Victoria.

Instead Victoria should be forcing down the amount paid to fossil fuel generators.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I'm from a low income household that has solar panels but no battery, so am still reliant on the grid. With electricity prices always on the up and feed-in tariffs going down, this proposal which goes absolutely counter to environmental concerns and to lowering household costs. Enduring profit for the greedy few, as always, wins over any benefit/fairness for the many and, ultimately, no more wealth will be extracted from a dead planet. "It's the economy, stupid!" Is the catch cry of the damned.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

FIT's are too low now. This new proposal will make ours even lower. We generate kwh's back into the grid and retailers sell them back to us at more than double the FIT rate.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

It's a disgrace that those people who are already doing their best to help the environment and Australia's appalling emissions per capita should be penalized further by having their input to the grid further devalued. That this should happen when we are reaping the awful harvest of the planet's greed and determined blindness in these unprecedented almost nation-wide fires is just rubbing salt into the wounds of how under appreciated we feel after making our depreciating investment.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The new draft minimum feed-in tariffs (FiTs), which are around 2c/kWh less than the previous year are not the way to go.

I would like to point out that rooftop solar saves all consumers by reducing demand and pushing more expensive generators out of the energy mix, and this is not reflected in the reduced minimum FiTs.

While it's good that retailers will be required to offer time-varying FiTs to better reflect the value of solar exports later in the day, the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is much too low to create an incentive for battery storage uptake.

Victoria is still trailing the other states when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar. Further reducing FiTs will not help the state to improve this situation.

Our family adopted solar rooftop power to help reduce our countries dependence on coal fired power generation but a fair FIT was a way to recoup the expense. While the price for our feed in power goes down the cost of buying power continues to increase, even with state government intervention.

Solar rooftop power is the way of the future and a fair FIT is essential.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Don't cut feed in subsidies to households and small businesses , as it will deeply affect the resilience building of small towns and communities.

With bushfires getting more severe and the chances of the grid being cut off on more Code Red days we need more incentives for private and community microgrids to get going.

In preparation for Electric vehicles, for people having the electricity to hear through the communications networks, to keep themselves safe from harmful wildfires.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Households which have invested in rooftop solar benefit all consumers by reducing demand and the cost of power generation, but reduced FITs do not reflect this.

The minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is far too low to provide any incentive for people to spend more money on battery storage.

We need to encourage more Victorians to install rooftop solar but reducing FITs will have the opposite effect.

Householders with rooftop solar need a break. We have been victimised by retailers who have gone to any lengths to claw back money they stand to lose through greater power self sufficiency. More realistic and fairer FITs are needed to balance the benefits provided to the grid and community by solar householders.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I do not concede that the minimum price of either 12.3c/Kwh or 9c/Kwh is a fair return for the power we produce when commercial suppliers, still using some dirty brown and black coal, charge us exceptionally more for the power we use than they give us for the clean power that we put back into the grid.

With these minimal returns for our clean energy it is a real disincentive to add battery storage as we cannot afford the cost on such minimal returns.

It is very clear from the catastrophic events of the last few months that the government's policies of not taking Climate Change seriously are an utter disaster. Our efforts to minimize the effect of CC should at least provide encouragement for others to do the same. If you lower the tariffs we are paid still further, how is this going to improve our efforts to reduce our carbon footprints?

Please recognise the need to encourage everyone to think about ways they can lower their impact on CC. The Liberal government has failed us radically. Will the ESC do a better job?

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

PLEASE INCENTIVISE BATTERY STORAGE UPTAKE VIA HIGH FiTs!

Rooftop solar saves all consumers by reducing demand and pushing more expensive generators out of the energy mix, and this is not reflected in the reduced minimum FiTs.

It's good that retailers will be required to offer time-varying FiTs to better reflect the value of solar exports later in the day, but the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is much too low to incentivise battery storage uptake.

Victoria is still trailing the pack when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar. Further reducing FiTs will not help the state go from laggard to leader.

PLEASE INCENTIVISE BATTERY STORAGE UPTAKE VIA HIGH FiTs!

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Hello

Why do you always try and make it always better for the big operators mostly foreign
owned to reduce the FIT?

It's pathetic that your proposing to reduce the FIT at the behest of these power companies.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Is the electricity that I provide through my solar panel array any different to that provided by the power companies? Of course it isn't. A fair outcome would be that the same price is charged/reimbursed across the board. Why all the ridiculous complications other than to protect greedy, vested interests who have thwarted solar-panel owners for over 20 years? It raises serious questions about what is going on here.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The amount we're paid for our feed in electricity is already too low & way lower than what we have to pay. It's a joke & there is no incentive to put solar in with the balance so in the providers favour. Reducing the feed in further is ridiculous.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Don't like it. I had a solar hot water installed years ago and added a PV system installed and my off peak meter was taken away so I had a fixed rate on all usage (penalty for saving money) I don't get cheaper rates when abundant power is available so why should the fit be reduced. Stop fiddling with the FIT some stability and certainty is needed.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Government is failing in its responsibilities to its people. At a time when evidence is precipitating the urgent need to convert to renewable energy supplies within no more than 5 years, this Government wants to reduce incentives to increase the uptake of solar! Just unbelievable. (unless they plan to substantially subsidise the installation of battery storage in place of feed in tariff). "Nah. We don't need solar we got heaps of coal. This Government has to go!

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

It's heartening that time-varying FiTs will now be offered to householders but the minimum FiT is too low. It doesn't reflect the benefit householders provide to energy providers or the overall network in reducing peak demand and minimizing supply stress on high-demand days. Please increase the minimum FiT rate to incentivise householders and compensate them more fairly.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I export most of the electricity. In a way this seems good as it is being used in the network to replace gas and lignite. However there is a lot of confusing messages coming through. And the main message is that rooftop solar is NOT welcomed by the industry for a range of reasons and the low feed in Tariffs just confirms this view. However even the industry opposes global warming mitigation I feel my small contribution might offset the carbon footprint I am making personally and the footprint I know I am making through the taxes I pay.

I want to help and recently I saw that the critical time that the network is overloaded is late afternoon on really hot days. So I will turn off my solar during these times to ensure the companies can retain power to people and retain their profitability.

As you know price sends a very clear message and the message is that rooftop solar is useful for the owner / tenant but a pain for the industry and pretty useless for carbon mitigation as it seems to price carbon at \$20 a tonne.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am at loss to understand why you are seeking to lower feed in tariffs.

People do not make the choice of installing solar panels lightly and to reduce their cost benefit is simply staggering.

Is there any corresponding action happening at the wholesale end of the national providers to tell them that they must now be prepared to be paid less? I think not.

I am requesting that you do not lower FiTs and cause households more financial pain.

Also the variable proposed structure for FiTs does not appear to be fair, the higher population densities in the South of Australia do not produce substantial amount of electricity all year round at the maximum rate, indeed it would be lucky to be half peak tariff time in most cases for half the year or more.

Please reconsider these recommendations and provide a fair opportunity for both previous and future investors in renewable technology.

These sort of changes are likely to make people less likely to invest in renewables given evidence like this of ROI reduction by regulators.

Thank you

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I am eagerly awaiting the installation of our 6.6 KW system in the next few weeks. I look forward to contributing to the switch to renewable energy that this country urgently needs to combat the disastrous effects of climate change that we are now seeing played out in the increased number of extreme weather events and raging bushfires that have led to catastrophic loss of life, environment, natural habitat, wildlife, housing and other infrastructure. We need to incentivise more rooftop solar as much as possible.

Rooftop solar saves all consumers by reducing demand and pushing more expensive generators out of the energy mix, and this is not reflected in the reduced minimum FiTs.

It's good that retailers will be required to offer time-varying FiTs to better reflect the value of solar exports later in the day, but the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is much too low to incentivise battery storage uptake.

Victoria is still trailing the pack when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar. Further reducing FiTs will not help the state go from laggard to leader.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I am totally against any reduction to the FiT. If anything, it should be increased considerably as the producers, wholesalers and retailers continue to increase the price of energy, contrary to what we are being told by the Industry and the Government. I have just received notification from my retailer, Momentum, that my electricity rates are increasing to the extent my future bills are increasing by approximately 10%, whilst they've reduced my FiT from \$0.11 to \$0.09!! This is pure and unadulterated greed. If the wholesale price of energy is coming down, then why are the rates increasing??? If it wasn't for all those that invested in solar systems, like myself, there would be more blackouts and State Governments would have had to construct new power stations or stall the closure of the ones that have. For this reason, those that have installed solar systems should be adequately compensated for what they provide rather than being used by the wholesalers and retailers to line their pockets by selling the energy we generate as substantially subsidized rates. NO REDUCTIONS TO THE FIT!!!

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I acquired solar panels about 6 years ago; not because I thought it would save me money; but as a protest to the government about their poor actions regarding climate change/sustainability etc.

So much power is wasted in huge shopping centres, cinemas with 5 people per movie; etc; it's absurd !! As I can't afford a battery to 'export' the 7-9 kwh I produce and don't use every sunny day in summer (250 kwh JUST for December !!); it has to be exported as it is generated. Why should my FIT drop, and penalise me ??? When so much power is WASTED -- every day??

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

We spent \$14,000 of our retirement fund on solar batteries to limit our impact on the environment, and to lessen our utility bills. It appears unfair to lessen the fit when we pay more per kw than people without solar again discrimination. It appears the utility companies have a hold over the gov every time the kw price goes up and the fit is lowered it is a pay rise for them and another kick in the guts for the average joe.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The ESC is proposing that the minimum FiT rates get slashed by around 2c/kWh. But slashing the rate is no way to turn Victoria from a rooftop solar laggard to leader! We need to provide fair incentives for people who install solar panels. They are the ones who are doing the right thing for our climate and our country's future!

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Typical, make it as complicated as possible, so it can't be implemented. A good system would be: FIT=Peak Tariff.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I am forced to pay 25cents per kwh for dirty coal fired power. Yet there is a proposal to reduce the feed in tariff I receive for clean solar power from 12 cents to 10 cents?

I have bought and paid over \$10,000 for the infrastructure to. I also pay a vastly inflated set \$ amount each day just to be connected to the electricity grid. My tariff should NOT be compared to wholesale tariffs. I provide a community service to the whole community in reducing Greenhouse gases - that should be factored in to the tariff I receive - which should also function as a strong incentive for more investment in solar - not less. It should not be reduced - it should be significantly increased each year.

Energy companies are making obscene profits and NOT paying their fair share of tax. All that will happen if they pay less in solar tariffs is an increase in their profits.

If you wish to encourage battery storage by all means offer more for renewable energy provided after dark - but NOT at the expense of solar panel owners who cannot afford to buy batteries.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

This is ridiculous, forget about this silly stepped proposal.

Domestic solar households are generators and should be given at least the same feed in tariff as their purchased rate per kilowatt. We are generators and carry all of the risk for our systems and have financed the equipment.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

This current climate change assisted national bushfire emergency throughout Australia including Victoria where I reside has brought to everyone's attention, that the scientific and other experts modelling and predictions of how climate change will affect Australia is coming true rather tragically for our nation and all inhabitants including flora and fauna. The Garnaut report of 2008 prediction has come true unfortunately. In 2008 eminent economist Garnaut's climate change review examined the scientific impacts on Australia and its economy. He stated that without adequate action the nation would face a more frequent and intense fire season by 2020.

Well guess what his report was not acted upon and further to this, other expert advice by former highly respected fire chiefs was completely ignored. by the federal and some state governments.

We are in the midst of a climate change emergency and must transition our economy and nation immediately to being based on 100% renewables by the end of this decade according to the latest IPCC reports. We have the potential to do this now in Australia and become a renewable energy superpower. Solar power will be a major part of this transition to a renewables based economy along with wind, and a diverse range of other power not based on polluting fossil fuels including coal, oil and LNG and coal seam/shale gas extraction.

I installed an evacuated tube solar hot water system and a 6kw solar panel system more than 5 years ago and I could not be happier with my decision. I am more than happy with my back up energy company that I deal with Diamond Energy where my Fit rate increased from 4 cents a kw to a reasonable 12 cents a Kw now because they are a solar friendly

Victorian company whom I changed from Red Energy.

Solar owners should be encouraged with a fair and reasonable Fit for their power going back to the grid and I praise and support the solar/battery program the Andrews government has rolled out in Victoria. I paid a lot more for my solar system than one currently costs today, so I need a fair Fit for my prudent, environmentally based choices I made nearly 6 years ago. I now drive an electric vehicle (for which I received no incentive by my governments in this country) which I charge at home with my solar power and I retrofitted my home with LED's. Please do not reduce the Fit as the climate emergency times we live in require diverse strategies including financial incentives for the community to embrace the many changes we all need to make to mitigate the effects of climate change and limit warming to below 1.5 degrees or none of us will have any future at all in this country or on our beautiful planet Earth.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I am new solar owner has been installed 6,600 Watts last few months ago and totally about 1,400 kwh in meter for grid FiT !

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Since having my solar panels installed the rebate has changed 4 times why can't you leave it alone and get your own house in order and stop ripping off your customers.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

To whom it may concern

I am very disappointed that there is a push to reduce the feed-in tariffs.

I believe the feed-in tariff should be increased to a minimum of 15 cents to help to pay back our investment in Solar.

Secondly there needs to be a vision for a sustainable future e.g. financial support for investing into storage systems like batteries. A combination of batteries and solar will address some of the concerns of not producing power when the sun is not shining.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you about the proposed new draft minimum feed in tariffs for rooftop solar in Victoria.

The timing of your proposal to reduce the feed-in rates for rooftop solar couldn't be worse. Australia is in the grips of the worst bushfire season in living memory, which all the climate experts agree is being impacted on by our rising carbon emissions.

It would make far more sense to offer people an increased payment for their clean energy exports to encourage more installations of rooftop solar in Victoria.

Victoria is still trailing the pack when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar. Increasing FITs will help the state become a Country leader which will also help us reach our zero emissions goals for 2030.

I thought the Vic government was working to help save families the added cost of rising power bills. Rooftop solar with batteries has certainly helped my family cut down on our living costs.

Please raise the feed in tariffs to encourage a greater uptake of rooftop solar and to reduce the states carbon emissions. Your children and grandchildren will thank you for it.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

A poor decision, at the very least you should be raising the FIT to 15c, this is becoming a big disincentive to install Solar, when in fact it should be encouraged.

The price Gap between FIT and what the companies actually charge should be more than sufficient to make a profit

The connection fee should also be reviewed by powercor as they are the most expensive also.

The shoulder FIT is also way too low to encourage Solar growth in the industry. The solar FIT should be there to encourage all to take up renewable energy.

Climate warming this year in Australia has caused major damage to our forests, we need to act now, and encourage solar installations, and this can only be done with a fair FIT.

The Premium FIT needs to be scrapped.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Really? REDUCE FIT??? What is the logical basis for this, apart from propping up coal and big business margins??

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From: Anonymous

Submission:

Rooftop solar provides a vital component of renewable energy, particularly during peak summer to power air-conditioning etc. Current feed-in tariffs of 11.8c per kWh in Victoria is around one third that of the regular mains tariff. To reduce feed-in tariffs would further undermine rooftop solar which should be actively encouraged, along with household battery storage. Global warming must be urgently curtailed by wider use of renewable energy.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Honestly, any clawing back of the very modest 12c tariff is pathetic no matter what the 'justification'. What a waste of time & resources. Expect major pushback from market on any reduction. You greedy, sad people.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

This is very disappointing and will discourage people from going solar.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

It is so much cheaper for the state to have individual households pay for, manage, maintain solar than to build new grid and new generators. Simple timers to turn on air/con, pool pumps, etc, before the peak period will be encouraged en masse if peak tariff is significantly more than proposed. Surely we have seen enough negative wholesale price to know how much we need this encouragement. Surely we know we cannot afford to have commercial scale generators on stand by for 18 hours of the day, just to serve the evening peak - how extravagant . And they would have to be polluting gas generators and the gas would have to be imported through Westernport !! But if you need that later evening period then you need to reduce the real cost of batteries through a much better evening tariff.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

It should not price gouge which it has done for years. especially 35 c for peak 18c for off peak and eventually for solar 11 or 9 cents, I get 67 cents for generation but will change to 11 or less in 2 years. I think the rates shown may not happen.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Households who invest in rooftop solar panels do so at their own expense usually costing several thousand dollars. This supplies much needed power when it is needed most- during the day in hot weather to run air conditioners and household appliances. This obviously takes pressure off the grid and the surplus electricity is sold to the power companies for around 10 cents/kWh who sell it back to customers at other times for 30 cents or more per kWh. ie. at least three times what they pay households who have made their own investments. Through this investment households are providing more infrastructure which power companies would otherwise have to invest in to make up for what rooftop solar provides them for free and which they make at least 200% profit on ! This is clearly wrong ! Households should be fairly rewarded for making the investment which power companies then exploit for their own gain. Even if households were paid 20 cents per kWh power companies would be making a very good profit without any investment. A low feed in tariff sends the wrong signal to households who would otherwise make their own investment only to be exploited by (mostly) overseas investors.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I have had solar panels for 9 years. They cost us \$20,000+ (and I am not paying more for a battery) at FiT's at 32c/KW hoping that we would get money back doing something for our environment, and getting our cheaper bills. Not long after 32 went to 8. We are trying to do the right thing, and were told all this rubbish about solar panels, and rebates. It is very disappointing. The 3-9pm sounds ok, but who is home to use it the power to generate the storage during sunlight time, and during winter, well?

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The obvious way to eliminate the peak between 5pm and 8pm is to promote PV solar rooftop with battery that will ensure the household is not pulling power as the sun goes down. I have such an installation so I can see how effective it would be. Drop the FiT further and provide more and better battery rebates?

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

If you drop the solar rate again. That's it, I'm going full off grid. You can forget about us feeding you greedy Machine. The prices have come down and it's now viable to be off grid and self supported.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

When solar panels were first introduced over ten years ago the FiT was 66c per kWh. This might seem extravagantly generous now but solar installation was expensive back then and a high FiT was necessary to encourage uptake of solar panels.

The proposed minimum FiTs are way too low because we still need to encourage rooftop solar and battery storage uptake for several reasons. Here's two:

- 1) To help combat climate change;
- 2) To better reflect the commercial value of electric power. With current retail peak prices around 40c per kWh, anything less than say 25c is an immoral rip-off by the retailers.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The feed-in tariff is too low. Now look around the bushfires. We need encouragement of renewable energy for a green Australia.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

It is my understanding that the Victorian Essential Services Commission are in the process of reviewing Feed-in Tariffs. I would like to present my submission here.

Australia is in the perfect position to potentially supply most, if not all, of its power from renewable sources. There is plenty of sun and wind.

Unfortunately, governments (state and federal) have not stepped up to the challenge of encouraging large scale, efficient renewable generation and storage (when compared to the subsidies provided to say, the coal industry).

Therefore, it has been left largely in the hands of consumers to fill the role of providing small scale/rooftop power generation; largely at their own cost.

Existing tariffs represent a fraction of the retail price of electricity. Hence it is more effective to use one's own power and not export it (by time shifting energy intensive tasks such as running air conditioners and dish washers, etc). To encourage more exporting the FiT should be raised.

Also, to date, small scale storage has been expensive and somewhat more complex for consumers to provide and so there is relatively little availability of time-shifted feed-in power. Where consumer demand for power is greater in the evenings time-shifting feed-in by the use of batteries makes sense. A higher Fit based on demand would improve the balance when considering how to pay for batteries.

As we see the harmful effects of non-renewable power generation visibly cause dramatic damage to the earth, now is the time to provide greater subsidies for small scale generation and storage. Preferably, through a set of fair, feed-in tariffs harmonised across the country.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

We need incentives to move on from fossil fuels. Lowering the feed in tariffs is not encouraging society to transition. I spent \$30K to rig up our solar panels and it's been nothing but a heartbreaking nightmare. Mostly to feel punished for trying to do the right thing for my kids clean future, technology and a way forward from fossil fuels. We should be boosting the buy back feed in tariffs to encourage everyone on board.

What a disappointment to punish those who try to do the right thing. Especially in this day and age with the global perspective upon Australia and its governments.

Show future and forward thinking Leadership and increase the buy back rates.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Hi, If you want the country to become energy self sufficient, you need to have it so consumers want to fit Solar to their roof. If there is no benefit, they will not buy. Consumers need to win once in a while.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Low FITs do nothing for the people who have installed rooftop solar, when power companies sell the generated power to consumers at inflated prices. Rooftop solar reduces the reliance on fossil fuel generators, and a reduction in FIT will not result in lower energy prices for consumers just increased profits for the energy companies.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Why on earth complicate the issue with a tiered system? People with roof-top solar have almost no control over when they feed in. But they do deserve to be adequately paid for their contribution.

I can't see how the tiered system would encourage battery uptake, if that's what you are trying to achieve. Surely people will 'fill' their batteries and then start supplying surplus to the grid? Again, no real control over timing. You would have to be a very canny person to manage optimisation of your energy system by switching batteries on and off at particular times. People don't have time for that. Just pay a fair price for people's generation knowing that they only generate when the sun shines.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I have serious doubts about the proposed changes to feed in tariffs.

Rooftop solar saves all consumers by reducing demand and pushing more expensive generators out of the energy mix, and this is not reflected in the reduced minimum FiTs.

It's good that retailers will be required to offer time-varying FiTs to better reflect the value of solar exports later in the day, but the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is much too low to incentivise battery storage uptake.

Victoria is still trailing the pack when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar. Further reducing FiTs will not help the state go from laggard to leader.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

I wish to express my concern about the proposed changes to the FIT.

1. It is illogical to have the peak time slot ending at 9pm. Nowhere in Australia are PV panels producing electricity at this hour.

2. The single rate and the Off Peak and Shoulder rates are woeful. I export electricity and other citizens use it. They pay more than double the FIT. Who is making a profit here? I am happy to contribute to the maintenance of the grid, but not that much. Thank you.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The time has come with the extreme weather conditions causing unprecedented bushfires, for everyone to do something to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Australia now is the time to encourage people to generate power with solar panels. Please put aside your previous reason for reducing payment to those who have subsidised solar power on their homes, thanks to the Federal Government and the State Governments who have made commitments to families to afford solar panels. Now is the time to thank them and encourage more home solar. Please wake up now and see the reality of reducing gas emissions any way we can. Thank the people who put solar on and pay them 60 cents per kWh for their solar going to the grid. Open your eyes and look at the devastation across our great country. We urgently need to do more not less.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Rooftop solar saves all consumers by reducing demand and pushing more expensive generators out of the energy mix, and this is not reflected in the reduced minimum FiTs. Fossil fuel derived energy producers make a lot more for their electricity production than that, I feel that a much fairer price for rooftop solar producers is required.

It's good that retailers will be required to offer time-varying FiTs to better reflect the value of solar exports later in the day, but the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is much too low to incentivise battery storage uptake.

When clean sun-power is helping to lighten the load during times of peak demand, it takes the strain off the grid. Plus, paying households more for exporting after dark encourages the uptake of battery storage.

Victoria is still trailing the pack when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar. Further reducing FiTs will not help the state go from laggard to leader. There are many more jobs to be had from clean energy production than from traditional fossil fuel energy production. fossil fuel derived electricity is a dying industry, so Fits should take this into account by paying a fair amount.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Please do not allow the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh to be reduced further. Rooftop solar saves all consumers by reducing demand and pushing more expensive generators out of the energy mix, and this is not reflected in the reduced minimum FiTs.

It's good that retailers will be required to offer time-varying FiTs to better reflect the value of solar exports later in the day, but the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is much too low to incentivise battery storage uptake.

Victoria is still trailing the pack when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar. Further reducing FiTs will not help the state go from laggard to leader.

Vic Please do not become a backward looking State.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

There are serious problems with the proposed feed-in tariffs of 10c that will have counterproductive results on power prices due to perverse incentives or lack of incentives. Firstly, the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is much too low to incentivise battery storage uptake, therefore we will rely on expensive gas generation to cover peak load demands between 4 pm and 10pm on hot summer days, which will be ever more frequent.

Secondly, Victoria's belated catch-up on roof-top solar, which is the private citizen's only method of influencing their carbon footprint in the absence of federal government action, will be severely curtailed and therefore we will be more reliant on our dirty brown coal for energy.

Thirdly, even for non-battery installations, the output to the grid after 4pm on very hot days is usually quite good for several hours in mid summer and will result in less episodes of expensive demand calls that electricity companies need to make.

Fourthly, with the recent increase in electricity supply tariffs to about 26c or more per kWh means, if anything, the feed-in tariff should also go UP 1-2c as the transmission costs will be the same. Therefore this is an unfair re-distribution of costs to the very people who are bringing costs of electricity down by increased supply from renewable sources.

Fifthly, I personally pay for 100% renewable energy for all my usage not covered by my solar PV system. For that I pay a 5-6c premium (about 33c/kWh) for something that is being provided to the electricity companies at a maximum of 12c currently, and 10c in the proposal. It does not add up that suddenly the transmission costs for that power should be $33c - 10c = 23c$ per kWh. A power expert has told me those costs are closer to 10c, therefore

this would allow companies to gouge 13c extra for doing nothing more than they are doing today. Clearly this is not helping to keep electricity prices down whilst maintaining sufficient supply.

I therefore strongly suggest that feed-in tariffs should either be left the same at 12c (or increased by 1c). Whilst I think there should be time variable feed-in tariffs, the post 3pm tariff should be increased to 15c to reduce the chance of brown-outs by incentivising private battery installations.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The recent bushfires have highlighted the need for us to reduce emissions - any drop in solar feed-in tariffs will only hinder our progress.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Rooftop solar saves all consumers by reducing demand and pushing more expensive generators out of the energy mix, and this is not reflected in the reduced minimum FiTs. It's good that retailers will be required to offer time-varying FiTs to better reflect the value of solar exports later in the day, but the minimum peak price of 12.3c/kWh is much too low to incentivise battery storage uptake.

Victoria is still trailing the pack when it comes to the percentage of households that have adopted rooftop solar. Further reducing FiTs will not help the state go from laggard to leader.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Thank you for making up my mind about going off grid. There is no way I am going to sell my solar for 12 cents per kw and the retailer turns around and sells it to my next door neighbour for 24 cents per kw,they make 12 cents per kw for no work or investment, my solar cost me \$8000.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

Peak, shoulder, off peak tariffs weekend / weekday are a distraction. Consumers can not react to these complicated price signals. This should be scrapped. And a 2 cent reduction in the mandated feed in tariff is a disgrace when Victoria is on fire driven by climate change and private capital to deploy solar panels should be stimulated as part of the solution. We should be increasing the mandated Feed-in-rate not decreasing it.

Submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission: Minimum feed-in tariff review 2020-21 draft decision

From: Anonymous

Submission:

The proposal to reduce Feed-in tariffs by 2c/kWh is a mean, miserable idea. Pensioners like me rely on the pittance we get now to reduce our ridiculously high power bills.

It's hard enough for me to maintain a reasonable living standard now without you allowing big businesses to increase their profits by ripping ordinary consumers off more.

I beg you, don't do this.