

Robert Bain

Warrnambool public forum Thursday 26 May

28/5/16

To the Essential Services Commission Team

Thanks for the informative session run in Warrnambool last Thursday.

It was good to get a first hand report on the deliberations of the Commission and an insight into proposals so far.

The possible structure proposed for Victoria's Feed-in Tariff arrangements was interesting and seemed better than what exists at the moment. It was particularly good to see the inclusion of Environmental impacts into the funding proposal.

Clearly from the discussion that took place, the Networking arrangements are going to be a key component of any final decision that is made.

We feel that somewhere in the proposal there is going to be a need for some form of incentive over and above what already exists to attract people to remain connected to the grid once battery back-up becomes a viable alternative for people with solar power. We are concerned that under the present proposal, people may decide that they will be better - off out of the grid. If enough people decided this way, this would create serious problems for the network.

We look forward to participating in a further forum when the final report is available.

In the current environment, I would like to think that it was not too naive to consider that whether it be Win, Solar or other, there is an opportunity for Government, the Community and Business to join together for the benefit of all parties.