

Author name: A. Bingham

Date of submission: Thursday, 25 May 2017

Submission: Solar feed-in tariffs 2017/18 I am a householder who has outlaid many thousands of dollars to have 2 x 3.5 solar generators installed (2004 and 2009). I did this because I wanted to make a difference to human health and the natural health of our environment. I think that this is a critical fact in choosing solar power that is not factored into the true value of rooftop solar. That is, the savings to the environment, which affect every living creature on the planet. I have continued to use power saving practices as part of my lifestyle responsibilities despite generating many times over what I use. Until December 2016 when the feed-in tariff in NSW ceased, I was receiving good payment for power fed back to the grid. Whether there is agreement that .66 cents/.60 cents per kilowatt was a reasonable payment or not, the fact is that I was paid as much for the power generated as the power I used. That is an undeniably fair balance and above all you should note that equal feed in and draw down tariffs is what I consider a fair price for a solar. (In effect the draw down cost is far greater than the actual tariff because of the extraordinarily high utility costs just to be connected, particularly in the country, where I am based. There is no compensation for blackouts, dangerous and inconvenient situations resulting from storm damage, or for routine maintenance, all of which are periods when the feed in mechanisms do not function, but the connection fee keeps ticking over. Double loss.) I would also like to point out that the feed-in tariff should not just be a benchmark range, it should be regulated so retailers have to offer it as a minimum.