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Submission: Retail offers for Solar bonus scheme customers post 1st January 2017.

I am a customer in the Ausgrid distribution area and currently have a 1kw solar PV system with gross metering. The two meters, one for consumption (import) and the other for solar generation (export), are interval meters giving kWh figures every 30 minutes.

I do not see the need to be forced to have a net meter installed because it is possible to determine net consumption and net generation for Feed in Tariff (FIT) payments from the data available from the existing two gross meters. It's a simple calculation:

1. Net 30 minute consumption = 30 minute consumption – 30 minute solar generation (ignore minus figures)
2. Net 30 minute FIT = 30 minute solar generation – 30 minute consumption (ignore minus figures)

These calculations can easily be done by the distributor or retailer therefore when retailers make their offers available for existing gross metered customers they should be MANDATED to offer a net meter bill with no requirement to have a net meter installed.

No doubt retailers will want all existing gross metered customers to have a net digital smart meter installed because they will then be able to offer additional facilities to save on consumption and reduce the cost of having meters manually read. I personally, and many others, do not need any additional facilities as they have already been installed by using third party hardware.

Further, if retailers insist that net metering is required then retailers should NOT charge customers for any costs (capital and installation) associated with the provision of a net meter as they will be using net digital smart meters for their own commercial advantage.

In conclusion I would like to see:

1. Retailers mandated to offer existing gross metered customers a net metering bill with no requirement to have a net digital smart meter installed.
2. Retailers cover all costs associated with a customers new net digital smart meter.