

I despair that IPART is again looking at cutting the NSW solar feed-in tariff to 8-9 cents per kWh.

I fully support a fair price for solar energy because people and businesses that have installed solar arrays are propping up the aged coal fired power stations and covering for poor government planning regarding electricity generation in NSW. If the reverse were to apply the government would without consultation legislate a fair price for coal generated power.

It is not fair to punish people and businesses that have invested in solar arrays because they contribute to reducing the cost of electricity for all NSW energy users.

In 2017 more than half of the electricity retailers in NSW failed to offer a feed-in tariff within the benchmark range. This is an example of self regulation that has failed therefore legislation is required to regulate the feed-in tariff to force retailers to offer it as a minimum. The behaviour of these retailers is no different from companies that fleece franchisees to the point where franchisees have to pay workers \$12 an hour for their businesses to be viable. It is also a restraint of trade for people and businesses that have invested in solar arrays.

When determining the true value of the feed-in tariff the environmental and health benefits, and the network benefits of rooftop solar must be factored in.

I have been fortunate that the retailer I use pays more than the feed-in tariff because they acknowledge their social responsibility in reducing Australia's carbon footprint. I am also pleased that I have been able to contribute to reducing my carbon footprint. Climate change is a reality and many small contributions to reducing Australia's carbon footprint will make a significant difference.

It makes no economic or environmental sense for the Australian government to pay polluters to pollute and support the fossil fuel industry which has had its day and IPART to be looking at cutting the NSW solar feed-in tariff benchmark to 8-9c per kWh.