

SG-ECODESIGN

LETTER / PROPOSAL

Date: 1 August 2013

Attention: Australian Energy Market Commission - AEMC

Project title: Solar Homes and The Grid

Project description: Improving market choices for solar energy homes

To whom it may concern,

People with solar PV on their homes should be allowed to continue putting their solar PV energy into the grid while opting out of buying from the grid if they choose.

People should have the legal and technical ability to use only the energy they produce from their own roofs if they choose.

The current system of market options and regulation holds all consumers hostage to the idea that they must use the energy made available to them if they want a grid connection whether they produce their own solar PV energy or not.

This is restrictive market practice and supports a cooperative monopoly in the energy market which is unreasonable and unfair.

In practice the existing meters/billing regulations can't formally do this yet.

We need regulation and technology that 'allows' people the option to switch off from the fossil fuel dominated grid supply if they choose, while still allowing them to contribute to the grid and help to build a renewable future energy market from diverse sources.

There are many people who want this now and the number is rising all the time as energy costs continue to increase and people/consumers feel they have no option but to pay the escalating charges. People paid significant money to put solar PV on their roofs to reduce their bills but the energy companies are finding more and more ways of clawing that money back from those people through billing manipulation. The current situation supports this profoundly unfair market control and manipulation and it needs to be addressed now.

The end result I'm arguing for is that people are given the option of:

a legal minimum grid connect service that removes a home from using any grid supplied energy but still allows solar energy to be put into the grid on a one way only deal. Thus people would pay for the lines and wires as a way of helping their solar PV system to work smoothly but they would not have to pay for the energy in those lines and wires. Then that basic grid connection charge should be legislated low and fixed.

I want to give people fair market choice that they are currently denied. The current system is holding everyone to ransom and that flies against basic fair trading and competition law.

Yours sincerely,

Simeon Glasson