

Submission Type: Rule Change

Reference: Access, pricing and incentive arrangements for distributed energy resources

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Comments: Enabling distribution networks to offer two-way pricing for export services

The proposed rule change allows for the imposition of a cost to exporters of low cost energy to the distribution network. If this is implemented, it will have the following negative consequences and should not be accepted:

1. A severe disincentive will arise for anyone contemplating installing a solar power generating system. This will result in a rapid reduction in the up take of solar power and a resulting negative affect on Australia's future economic resilience.
2. For those with an existing solar power system, it will greatly increase the likelihood of the addition of battery storage and therefore of present customers 'going off the grid' as battery technology becomes ever cheaper. A major reduction of a cheap source of power and customers for the electricity distribution companies would occur. This will increase distribution and kWh costs to those customers remaining without solar.

What have the distributors been doing over the last decade with their 'Gold Plating' of transmission infrastructure?

This appears to be a low cost band-aid fix enabling distributors a few more years of minimal expenditure on their assets before being forced by the market to upgrade them as other forms of power generation become too expensive.

Why was this situation not foreseen and planned for a decade ago by the distributors?