

Submission Type: Rule Change

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

Organisation: From a household owner

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Comments: Proposed Tax/Levey for Supplying Solar Power To The Grid

I refer to the recent announcement that the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) will charge owners of domestic solar power generation for exporting electricity to the grid.

There are a lot of confusing messages in what I have read in a number of news articles. This includes:

The new charges to domestic solar power generation will eventually see them better off; and How can paying a tax make you better off? Confusing to say the least.

In what appears to be a statement from the AEM, the AEMC said the recommendation was not designed to create mandatory export charges, but to create more flexibility and pricing options. "Introducing this flexibility should benefit the 80 per cent of consumers who don't have solar PV (photovoltaic) on their roof," Mr Barr said. Sounds like waffle, rhetoric and socialism to me. So, those who have spent the money/investment to make the savings in power bills should pay a tax so those who did nothing, gain a benefit.

Why aren't the major generators paying to access the grid? If this were to be fair and equitable, they should pay too. I already pay approximately \$30 a quarter in fees and charges, god knows what for. If this goes ahead, will there be more charges or increases. The public is being paid for something, then there is a line up for agencies to collect some.

Over the years we have been encouraged to go green by various governments and others. AEMC chief executive Ben Barr said the electricity grid was struggling to cope with the changing power landscape, which was generating more solar energy than ever before. Barr indicated he would like a system where roof top panels can be switched on and off to meet the grid's requirement. Both governments and the people who run the power supply and distribution networks should have realised, especially over the regent years that household solar power production would have an impact on the grid. The changes to the grid had not kept up with the panel rollout/s. The installation of solar panels to households started to increase, noticeably in 2008. There was no or very little insight.

It seems that there is a problem with power supply to the grid, that should have been identified and rectified years ago. It's a sales pitch to justify a tax.

I have also expressed my concerns to my local Federal Member and this has been forwarded to Federal Minister Taylor.

This problem should have been fixed and fixed properly before this happened.

I am extremely unhappy with this proposal. This should not go ahead.

Regards
Mick Morris