

Submission Type: Rule Change

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

Organisation: Private

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Comments: I am writing to voice my strong opposition to your controversial plan to charge solar owners for exporting clean energy back to the grid, effectively a tax on the sun.

Why would you act to create disincentives for individuals to have greater control over their own energy? This policy protects existing energy generators at the expense of private citizens and should be scrapped.

Research from the Victoria Energy Policy Centre shows that the benefit solar owners provide to all energy consumers far outweighs added network costs. Rooftop solar drives down the wholesale price of electricity and can provide network benefits by supplying local energy.

Research conducted by UNSW for the Energy Security Board shows that the impact of solar on the networks has been overestimated.

There are better ways to future-proof the grid for more solar, like investing in household and community batteries and electric vehicles.

The new rules give too much power to networks and don't have strong enough protections to stop solar consumers being ripped off. Networks will still be able to limit solar exports.

We should be encouraging more rooftop solar not penalising people who invest in solar in good faith to cut their energy bills and do their part for the environment. Solar export charges could slow down solar uptake and Australia's transition to renewable energy.

I'm in the process of getting rooftop solar to lower my energy costs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels for my energy and to have more control over my household energy.

Please do not pass this regressive tax on private citizens trying to do our part to transition away from fossil fuels.