

Submission Type: Rule Change

Reference: Allowing DNSPs to charge for exports to the network

Organisation: Private citizen

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Comments: I write to oppose proposed changes to the National Electricity Rules, which would allow people to be charged to export their rooftop solar energy to the grid.

I have installed rooftop solar and a home battery. We produce enough solar energy to cover our full 24 hour electricity usage - so we import no electricity from the grid.

I wish to raise the following points:

- 1 - The climate science is clear - we must transition away from fossil fuels, as the emissions released from burning coal, gas, oil etc are worsening climate change, global warming and rising sea levels.
- 2 - Rooftop solar is an important part of making this transition. It costs a lot to install rooftop solar (and especially to install a battery), and solar owners should not incur an additional financial penalty, when our collective actions are assisting the government's intention of slowing down climate change.
- 3 - Rooftop solar has become a major jobs bonanza for Australians. So many are now employed in the rooftop solar industry - and penalising solar owners will lead to fewer people installing solar - ultimately leading to job losses and unemployment of solar installers.
- 4 - I live in Qld where the government plans to achieve 50% renewable energy by 2030. Qld is currently producing less than 20% renewable energy - so rooftop solar is an essential part in helping the government achieve its target.
- 5 - Despite not importing grid electricity, I still pay a daily service charge on my electricity account - so I am still contributing to funding the electricity infrastructure (poles and wires).
- 6 - My feed-in tariff is close to one quarter of the fee my retailer charges other customers to buy back my solar energy. This huge price mark up by the energy retailers, is more than enough to pay to upgrade/maintain the poles and wires.
- 7 - The majority of my solar grid exports occur in the hottest part of the day during the Summer months, and this is precisely the time that the grid is under extremely high demand with everyone using their air-conditioners.
- 8 - Rooftop solar power stored in home batteries, when used as a virtual power plant (VPP), is a huge energy asset which can help to stabilise the grid, and negate the need for hugely costly network upgrades, during periods of extreme demand (e.g. during summer heatwaves). Every home battery should be linked into a VPP to help stabilise and support the grid - and there should be no penalty to do this (as introducing an export fee would be a penalty and a disincentive).

Sincerely

Phil Browne