



SolarCitizens

## **SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN ENERGY REGULATOR**

### ***REGULATION OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SELLERS UNDER THE NATIONAL ENERGY RETAIL LAW***

#### **WHAT IS SOLAR CITIZENS**

Solar Citizens is a non-profit, non-partisan project that brings together existing and future solar owners to create a strong community voice for solar. We have grown to over 40,000 solar owners and supporters who have directly participated in our campaigns, but serve to represent the over 2 million solar owners in Australia. We work to protect the rights of solar owners and help see Australia put a solar panel on every rooftop.

#### **RESPONSE TO ISSUES PAPER**

Solar Citizens welcomes amendments to the regulatory framework that will enable more viable business models for solar installations. We urge the AER to also consider amendments to the regulatory framework to overcome the tenant-landlord split incentive issue – a significant barrier to installing solar in Australia.

Solar Citizens has prepared the following points in response to the AER's issues paper:

- We support the proposal that if a customer will continue to have access to an authorised retailer (ie still connected to the grid) then the provider of a solar PPA should only be required to obtain a retailer authorisation exemption
- We support the proposal to require the provider of a solar PPA to obtain a retailer authorisation only in situations where the alternative energy seller prohibits the customer from entering into a contract with an authorised retailer and is therefore the sole supplier of energy.
- We urge the AER to consider improvements to the regulatory framework to enable landlords and real estate agents to establish themselves as alternative energy sellers while guaranteeing the rights of tenants. If desirable, the AER should develop (or fund the development of) some standard contracts for landlords and real estate agents that would enable them to profitably install solar PV while guaranteeing the rights of their tenants.
- We urge the AER to clarify the regulatory framework governing the direct sale of electricity between a distributed generator that produces solar electricity in excess of its own requirements and a neighbouring company that wishes to purchase the electricity (sometimes referred to as 'wheeling arrangements').
- We urge the AER to consult further with solar owners and the solar industry in the development of a framework for multiple site exemptions for solar PPAs.

Solar Citizens supports the more detailed submission provided by the Clean Energy Council.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

For further discussion or clarification, please contact Nick Taylor, Solar Citizens Community Campaigner, at [nick@solarcitizens.org.au](mailto:nick@solarcitizens.org.au) or 0411442881.