

Hi. As an electricity consumer and pensioner, I offer the following comments regarding the tariff guidelines.

We have an all electric household, and four years ago, due to the very high cost of electricity, I switched energy retailer and got a better deal, but power prices continued to rise annually. Consequently, I installed 5kW of solar PV system. With a feed in tariff (FIT) of 12 cents/kWh, we were able to reduce our power costs substantially. This led me to install a second 5kW PV system which reduced our power bill even further. The payback period for both solar PV systems has been around 4 years and has been a very good investment.

By selling assets, we were lucky to generate the funds to afford the solar installation but there are many low income households who cannot and continue to suffer financially due to rising power costs.

However, solar feed in tariffs have been reducing in recent months and my power retailer now offers only 5.1 cents/kWh. According to the Energy Made Easy website, some retailers offer less or even no FIT which will greatly increase the payback period for those households considering whether to install solar PV.

Australia has some of the highest electricity prices in the world, even higher than Rwanda and Jamaica which is disappointing given the resources that we have - <https://www.electricrate.com/data-center/electricity-prices-by-country/>. Thankfully, renewables have been helping to reduce energy prices, but adding a further charge for homes to export power will be counter productive at a time when households should be encouraged to go solar.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if governments could act to make better use the excess solar power generated in the middle of the day, for example, by encouraging EV ownership and making it cheap to charge vehicles in the middle of the day, or to switch households with controlled loads to the middle of the day rather than at night. A constructive government policy such as this would be preferable to a solar export tax and the resulting negative consequences.

Sincerely,  
Steve Charles  
SA