

Minimum feed-in tariff review 2021-22

Submission received through Engage Victoria

Date submitted: 25 November 2020

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From 17 November 2020, we began accepting submissions on our Minimum feed-in tariff review 2021-22 via Engage Victoria (www.engage.vic.gov.au). On this website, people were given the opportunity to send us a response to a set of questions we provided.

1. Do you agree with the proposed single and time-varying feed-in tariff rates?

2. Do you have any comments about your answer?

I oppose any decrease in the FIT, moreover, I believe it should be increased to represent a fair price for the solar generated power.

You state that the drop in the proposed minimum tariff is mainly due to falling wholesale electricity prices which have been affected by reduced energy demand (driven by lower commercial and industrial usage) and the increase in solar installations across the state.

You expect us to be agreeable to wholesale price fluctuations determining the price of the solar FIT but, at the same time, the retail price remains unchanged. I was already annoyed by last year's decrease but this makes my blood boil.

I am currently looking for an alternative energy provider because I am not happy with the single rate FIT that my provider supplies as I believe it is exploitative and I am looking for one that provides a varying FIT.

With these latest changes being proposed conceivably, a retailer will buy electricity from me for 7.1 c/kWh and then sell it back to me for 30 c/kWh. How is that not exploitative?

Retailers and wholesalers both benefit greatly from the solar feed in I provide but I receive a pittance for my investment.

If you do not start setting a FAIR price for the solar FIT it will drive more consumers to install more batteries and, potentially going off the grid completely. Think of the dire consequences that will be for the energy industry.

I have one battery already but I am seriously considering another directly as a consequence of the low price I am paid for my feed in electricity.

3. Are you being notified by your retailer of changes to the feed-in tariff with enough time to look at other offers?

4. Do you agree with our decision to require retailers to notify solar customers of changes to their feed-in tariff rate before the change takes effect?

Surely this is rhetorical? All price changes should be notified ahead of time giving specific details of the pricing structure and the date it is to take effect.

I would go further to suggest that five days notification is insufficient and should be a month. This gives consumers time to re-evaluate their positions and look for better providers if necessary.

5. Please describe any other matters you want us to consider in our review or to raise with us.

I support the continuation of an annual review process and hope that submissions are reviewed objectively and acted on appropriately. This is my first involvement in the review process and, from what I've experienced so far, it is just a way of legitimising each FIT decrease.

6. Upload submission

No file specified.