

It is not appropriate that only market forces are considered in making changes to tariffs as proposed.

I fully understand what's driving this Minimum feed-in tariff review 2025–26 but the proposal to pay the customer 4 cents for 100 kWh of electricity exported to the grid is ludicrous. The same 100 kWh purchased from the grid retails for close to \$30.

There needs to be some perspective brought into this. There is a **huge saving in avoided capital expenditure** for the equivalent amount of generation capacity installed at central power stations. There is also a major reduction in transmission losses from local solar generation that we customers would otherwise pay for.

The capital that is invested in current central generation facilities is of an age where it is fully depreciated and investments have been recovered. In some cases the investment has been opportunistic at the expense of the wider community where profit has been diverted from the community to private interests.

I challenge the proponents to demonstrate that this issue of capitalisation has been factored in to the proposal and equally for the transmission loss consideration.

**A more appropriate system-wide response** to the identified problem of excess rooftop solar generation is to enable, and actively support, changes to regulations and Rules that would encourage the system Distributors such as United Energy, Citipower, Powercor etc., to install **a network of neighbourhood batteries**.

These would be installed with the intent to purchase the solar excess in the middle of the day (to stabilise the local voltage) and sell it back into the grid to meet local peak demand. This creates a win-win situation where the wholesale power price is maintained above zero during the day, rooftop solar owners continue to get a modest return and system transmission losses are dramatically reduced during peak. It also provides for a more steady load at coal- and gas-fired generators reducing boiler stresses and thus maintenance costs.

It is imperative that a fair return be ongoing for those who have invested in solar installations including rooftop solar.

Please consider my points and my solution. Happy to elaborate on details as required.

Regards  
Robert Brown