

Peter Haley

Submission: Energy: Victorian government Enquiry.

10/2/16

Dear Sir/Ms,

Each kilowatt hour of solar power I produce costs me 15 cents over a 10 year payback period, yet I receive fractionally above 5 cents from my energy retailer who promptly sells this power to my next door neighbours at up to 35 cents. Today, in the mail, I received notification that they will further reduce my feed-in tariff.

My solar power is absolutely clean and free of pollution, reduces demands upon the distribution network, reduces demand for additional generation capacity and greatly enhances the profits of suppliers, all at my expense.

Despite generating substantially more power than I consume over a twelve month period, my electricity bill has reduced by a little more than twenty percent. A ridiculous result and representative of an industry policy of "plunder and profit at any price".

I do not get a one for one kilowatt hour off-set because of the manner in which supply is measured. A method designed to minimise the benefits of solar power and maximise profits for multi-nationals. Again, a giant government supported rip-off at the expense of the consumer. At the same time power suppliers seek to maximise fixed charges to properties and introduce levies against solar power equipped households to further ensure artificial disincentives for those customers who dare to attempt to lower their own bills and embrace a sensible mix of green and baseload power.

I am aware that from 2008 to present, power charges across Australia have increased by greater than 60 percent, more than three times the rate of inflation and at the same time demand for power has decreased substantially. A very clear indicator of gouging the consumer!

The more people attempt to economise and reduce outrageous electricity charges, the greater the increases (and subterfuges to force increases) implemented by the power industry to ensure record profits year after year – plunder and profit at any price!

Instead of embracing the developing power revolution and participating by diversifying into areas being demanded by consumers, power suppliers have sought to disrupt and negate advantages provided by alternatives and seem intent on forcing the public to accept their outdated and polluting practises so they may enhance their already obscene profits irrespective of the damage they perpetuate. This is reminiscent of the tactics employed by tobacco companies to protect their profits irrespective of the catastrophic consequences for their consumers.

I am shocked by the short sighted silliness of the power suppliers and their always vociferous demands that their profits be shored up by the taxpayer and record profits be guaranteed year after year by the various governments. Not so long ago we had a competitive advantage internationally with some of the cheapest power prices in the world. Now, after privatisation and political assurances that “competition will keep power prices cheap” we have power that is amongst the world’s most expensive.