



ATA Feed-in Tariff Newsletter #5

This is a free subscription-based bulletin providing a regular update on what is happening with feed-in tariffs across the country and internationally.

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Victorian Government feed-in tariff scheme announced

On Monday May 5th, the Victorian Government announced that Victoria would join Queensland and South Australia in a feed-in tariff for solar power. The scheme will see homeowners paid 60c for each kilowatt-hour (kWh) of renewable electricity fed back into the grid from a grid-connected solar power system.

However, while leading international feed-in tariffs are paid on the entire generation, Victoria, like the other states, is offering to only pay homeowners for the excess electricity exported to the grid after what is consumed in the home. This raises some serious concerns around equity issues and the ability of these schemes to deliver the levels of renewable energy uptake desired. Further, the scheme is capped at 2 kilowatts (kW), which means any installations larger than 2kW will be ineligible to access the 60c.

Click [here](#) for the Department of Primary Industries website outlining the scheme, or visit the ATA [website](#) for more information on the implications of the proposal

Greens' feed-in tariff bill proposal

Christine Milne recently delivered a second reading speech of her proposed Renewable Energy Feed-In Bill to the Australian Senate. The Bill aims to allow the Energy Minister to apply a feed-in tariff to all renewable energy technologies, ensure that the feed-in tariff is applied to the gross generated electricity, not just the excess exported onto the grid, that the feed-in tariff is paid for 20 years; will allow feed-in tariffs to be varied by technology and region, amongst other things.

The Bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts, and submissions on the Bill have been invited. Submissions close on the 15th of August.

Click [here](#) to read Senator Milne's second reading speech, or visit the Senate [webpage](#) for details on how to make a submission or to download the draft legislation

Queensland feed-in tariff legislation

Queensland's feed-in tariff legislation which came into force on the 1st of July is available for download from the Government's [website](#). Part of the larger Clean Energy Bill 2008, the relevant section for feed-in tariffs is the Amendment of Electricity Act 1994, commencing on page 31 of the document.

World Future Council workshop presentations online

Videos of presentations to the World Future Council Feed-in Tariff Workshop in Washington, D.C., on March 2, 2008, available online. These include some excellent presentations by Paul Gipe, Miguel Mendonca and a number of USA politicians pushing feed-in tariffs in their respective states.

Click [here](#) to watch the presentations online

Federal feed-in tariff legislation proposed in USA

United States Democratic Representative Jay Inslee, from the northwest state of Washington, has introduced feed-in tariff legislation into the USA House of Representatives. Inslee's "Renewable Energy Jobs and Security Act" has three main tenets: a guarantee to interconnect renewables to the grid with uniform standards; a mandatory purchase requirement through long-term contracts with fixed tariffs; and rate-recovery through a regional cost-sharing and systems benefit charge.

Two articles discussing the proposal are available online from [Red, Green and Blue](#) and [Renewable Energy World](#), or click [here](#) to download the proposed legislation

UK feed-in tariff legislation

Last week the UK Government released its Renewable Energy Blueprint, a comprehensive plan to increase the proportion of renewable energy in the UK. One of the key planks of the proposal is to introduce the UK's first feed-in tariffs.

The plan calls for an expansion of the Renewable Energy Obligation scheme, similar to Australia's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target, coupled with the introduction of feed-in tariffs for small-scale microgeneration.

The [Blueprint](#) can be downloaded from the Government's [website](#) and more information is available from [BusinessGreen.com](#)

International Feed-in Cooperation workshop presentations

Presentations from the 5th workshop of the International Feed-in Cooperation, which was held in Brussels on April, 7th and 8th this year, are available from their website.

The International Feed-in Cooperation was initiated by the governments of Spain and Germany at the International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn in June 2004 in order to promote the exchange of experiences so as to improve the feed-in system design in each country. Slovenia joined the cooperation on January 29, 2007.

Click [here](#) to download the presentations, or visit the International Feed-in Cooperation [website](#) for more details

Changes to German feed-in tariffs

Following a recent review, there has been some minor amendments to Germany's feed-in tariff rates and eligibility. Primarily the review has led to an increase in the rate offered to wind energy installations, particularly off-shore wind, and a decrease in the tariffs offered to solar installations.

The reduction in solar feed-in tariffs is a result of the larger than expected reductions in the cost of installations, meaning payback times are decreasing quicker than expected. This is good news for the rest of us, as we will all benefit from the reductions in production cost achieved in Germany, driven by their progressive feed-in tariff laws.

Three articles on the proposed changes are available here:

- [Wind Lifted by Higher Tariffs in Germany](#)
- [Reformed Legal Framework Proves Germany's Commitment to Solar](#)
- [New German Renewable Energies Law Strengthens Sector Investment](#)

Australian opinions on German feed-in tariff

Click on these links to access two recent opinion / editorial / commentary pieces on the German feed-in tariff and the potential for Australia which recently appeared in the [Mercury](#) and [Business Spectator](#)

Changes to Solar Homes and Communities rebate

The Rudd Government's first budget has seen a winding back of the federal rebate for solar power. Known as the Solar homes and communities Program, the rebate offers up to \$8000 for the installation of solar electricity systems on their roofs, and has been incredibly successful in increasing the uptake of this important technology.

The essence of the change is the application of a means test to the rebate, limiting the rebate to households with a combined income under \$100,000. In effect, rather than welcoming the boom in solar power system installations around the country and addressing the increased demand on the federal rebate with an increase in funding, the Rudd Government has instead tried to dampen enthusiasm by applying a means test.

However, the 'light at the end of the tunnel' is a commitment by Environment Minister Peter Garrett that the means test will be reviewed if there is a significant downturn in uptake rates of the rebate in the near future.

The federal Opposition has commenced a campaign against the changes in the form of their 'Save our Solar' campaign. Draft legislation winding back the changes has been referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts, with submissions due by the 21st of July.

Visit the Senate [webpage](#) for details on how to make a submission or to download the draft Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008

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