



Media Release

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Solar would be cheaper for consumers with a National gross feed-in tariff: Access Economics report commissioned by ETU

An Access Economic report commissioned by the ETU Victorian Branch shows that a national solar scheme with a gross feed-in tariff would allow for double the amount of installations for the same cost as the Government has spent under the Solar Homes and Communities plan in the past 18 months.

The ETU Victorian Branch State Secretary Dean Mighell has written to the Environment Minister and Shadow Climate Action Minister today urging the Government to implement a national gross feed-in tariff for solar as it would be more cost-effective and less inconsistent across the states for consumers and the industry.

“The report titled *The Impacts of a gross feed-in tariff on electricity prices* clearly shows that if Australia is to get the most out of solar energy, a gross feed-in tariff will actually be far cheaper in the long run,” said Mr Mighell.

“The government keeps changing its domestic solar programs, there is no certainty or stability for the industry, or consumers.

“A gross feed-in tariff pays householders and businesses for all of the electricity produced in this case by grid connected rooftop solar units.

“If a gross tariff scheme is introduced, householders will only pay a maximum of 2% more through their electricity bills. Those that install solar will recover their entire costs through the feed-in tariff, as opposed to current Government programs which only covers part of the cost.

“It is obvious people want to participate in taking action on climate change, our report shows that a national gross feed-in tariff is the most cost effective way to support community participation.

“Prominent Australian businesses such as Woolworths and the Property Council of Australia also back a national gross feed-in tariff as it makes commercial sense and it allows businesses to participate in sustainable energy generation.

“We don’t want Australia to be left behind while Germany, China and the US all get on board the solar energy wave. The cost of inaction is not just environmental – without action we are exporting talent and jobs.

“An additional 22,500 jobs are possible in the solar industry, and the fact that it will cost less for consumers than the Government’s Solar Homes and Communities Plan is a real reason that a national solar scheme should be considered.

“The ETU supports the opportunity for ordinary Australians to be part of solving our energy supply and climate change problems,” said Mr Mighell.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact ETU Vic Branch State Secretary Dean Mighell on 0418 354 362 or media: Anaya Latter on 0432 121 636