

Submission Type: Rule Change

Reference: Access, pricing and incentive arrangements for distributed energy resources

Organisation: Private

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Comments: I do not support the proposed rule change. The AEMC admits that solar panel homeowners will lose financially as a result of such a change:

<https://www.aemc.gov.au/news-centre/media-releases/new-plan-make-room-grid-more-home-solar-and-batteries>

The AEMC also makes simplistic and unrealistic assumptions about the behaviour of consumers. The AEMC states, "We want to reassure solar customers that we're not proposing they should all start paying export charges. We expect networks to deliver pricing proposals in close consultation with consumers, which may include options where they don't have to pay for exports."

(<https://www.aemc.gov.au/news-centre/media-releases/new-plan-make-room-grid-more-home-solar-and-batteries>)

However, as the South East Queensland experience with the deregulation of the retail electricity market has shown, many consumers do not take up so-called "cheaper" electricity options because they may be confused by too much choice or overly complicated and complex selling points from retailers (as also acknowledged by the Queensland Productivity Commission Final Report, 2016, Electricity Pricing Inquiry, p. 207). The likelihood is high that the proposed rule change will have similar impacts for consumers especially those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Not all solar panel owners are wealthy and many will be financially disadvantaged by this proposed rule change. It could also perversely act to de-incentivise the take up of home solar panels. Therefore, the proposal should be abandoned.