

Submission Type: Rule Change

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

Organisation: Private citizen

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Comments: This rule would allow distribution networks to charge customers with solar panels when they send power to the grid when it is not needed as the current networks are unable to cope. The stated reasoning for this is that it would encourage these customers to send power to the grid when it is needed and relieve the load on the networks.

I don't believe this strategy will reduce the load on the networks because without installing batteries, solar panel owners have very little control as to when they send their power to the grid. We make power when the sun is shining during the day. Unless it is a very hot or very cold day most households use very little power during the day. Evenings and night time are the peak electricity usage times.

I have solar panels and have had them for over 10 years. I currently get 7.00c/kwh for my solar power. I have to pay my electricity company 28.436c/kwh at peak times and 15.623c/kwh during off peak when I use their power. I would dearly love to use more of my power because of the inequity of this pricing system but practically this is not possible. I suspect most other solar panel owners would be in the same position.

If the AEMC and the energy providers are serious about reducing grid traffic jams they would be providing proper incentives for solar power households to install batteries in the same way we were encouraged to install solar panels in the first place. Another alternative would be to invest in improving the electricity networks.

Government bodies should be encouraging households to install solar panels, not discouraging them in this manner. Most Australians care about the environment and the unique country they live in. They will continue to look for ways of reducing their impact on the world and will continue to install solar panels. Secure and reliable power is the right of every Australian citizen and I believe it is your remit to ensure they receive this, not to increase the profits of power companies.