

Job creation

fact sheet

THE SITUATION

- Australia has a mish-mash of schemes supporting the rooftop solar panel industry (solar PV).
- New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania have schemes under which generators (typically households) are only paid for the surplus electricity they feed back into the grid. This is called a net feed-in tariff.
- The ACT is the only Australian jurisdiction to pay generators for all electricity they produce (including the electricity they consume in the home). This is called a gross feed-in tariff.
- The ETU is calling on the Federal Government to take charge of the issue and introduce a uniform, national gross feed-in tariff.

THE OPPORTUNITY

- Australia could have 1500 MW of solar PV installed in the next ten years under the new system. This is roughly equivalent to the capacity of the Hazelwood coal fired power station, Australia's dirtiest generator of electricity.
- Because solar PV is the most labour intensive of all renewable energy industries, more than 22,500 new jobs could be created within the next ten years.
- Victoria alone could create an additional 5,400 jobs in the solar PV industry within the next ten years.
- These are real green jobs in sales, distribution, system design and installation.
- These new jobs are in addition to the jobs that will be created with the recently adopted federal renewable energy target.

THE BENEFITS

- Flow on benefits through the greater uptake of solar PV will lead to manufacturing once again being viable in Australia.
- New jobs could be generated in regional areas like the Latrobe Valley where alternative and diversified employment is needed.
- A distributed electricity network has numerous benefits such as reducing transmission losses and system upgrades.

THE FACTS

- All states within Australia currently or are likely to soon have a net scheme. No two tariff schemes will be the same. ACT is the only territory to have a gross FiT.
- In 2007, the Australian solar PV industry employed 1,660 people.
- In 2008, employment in Australia within the Solar PV industry was reported to increase to 3,800.
- Internationally the gross feed-in tariff has been adopted by 45 countries and 18 state/provinces/ territories.
- Germany is the leader in the use of a gross feed-in tariff. Of the 230,000 people employed, half can be attributed to the gross feed-in tariff.
- Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced a plan on 30 July 2009 to create 50,000 new green jobs. With one simple move, a gross feed-in tariff could create over 22,500 jobs



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