

From: Taryn Russo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 September 2012 5:21 PM
To: General Electricity Address
Subject: QUEENSLAND TO APPROPRIATE HOUSEHOLD PV

SUBMISSION RE THE ABOVE by JOE AND TARYN RUSSO - SET OUT BELOW

Wants to force solar home-owners to buy from the grid

By **Richard Chirgwin** • [Get more from this author](#)

Posted in [Policy](#), 14th September 2012 06:55 GMT

Queensland's new state government has put forward a proposal that will startle homeowners with solar PV electricity installed: the homeowner will be forced to sell all of the power generated on their roofs to the grid at a reduced rate, and will buy all the power they consume from the grid at full retail prices.

The proposal was published in August, but has gone unnoticed until now – with submissions closing Monday (September 17). In Queensland, the 2011-12 midday revenues had fallen by fifty percent from 2007-2009 levels – and for a government that's scrambling to reverse a slide in its credit rating, that represents a crisis.

As the report states:

Gross metered PV customers draw all of their energy requirement from the network and therefore pay a network charge for all of their consumption (fixed and variable components) the same as other, non-PV customers. This approach could be considered more equitable than net metering in circumstances where network charges are not cost reflective

That last phrase – “where network charges are not cost reflective” – is important. What it says is that the power industry suffers from a structural problem, and instead of restructuring network charges so that they recover the costs, the government is going to coerce solar PV owners to stop cheating the system by buying less retail electricity than the people next door.

To [quote](#) *Climate Spectator*:

"Sorry, you've replaced your halogen downlights with LEDs and installed an energy-efficient fridge that's reduced the amount of revenue the Queensland Government-owned network business can earn. We demand you reinstall the halogen downlights and buy a massive two door fridge with ice dispenser effective immediately."

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have just found out about the above and are horrified after having just installed a large solar system to help reduce our evergrowing power bills and to assist the environment re carbon emissions. The government has been emphasising the need to take such steps and were offering incentive rebates to encourage consumers to install solar energy. Now all of a sudden we hear that the rules might be changed without consultation or advice. We have two small children and saw our recent very expensive solar panel installation as an investment into our future. It was an expense we can ill afford taking into account the employment and downturn in the economy that Cairns is currently experiencing , however we found that all our energy cutting exercises were having little effect on reducing the cost of power to our home.

We then decided to install solar panels and entered into a contract with Ergon until 2028 and are now being told you are trying to make this "NULL AND VOID" and will only pay us a minimal amount for our power, and we will then have to buy it back at more than double for the cost we receive. As far as we are concerned a contract is a contract and just because the utility companies are not making the profits they envisaged is no justification to change the rules against those residents who have based their decisions on the evidence provided to them at the time. Just who is the government supporting here?

We would like to know why this proposed action has been hidden and why hasn't the media raised the issue to advise solar system owners just what is being contemplated. We are taxpayers and have a right to know about this matter and we are voters as are all other solar users. But is it once again a situation of the big companies winning over the government at the expense of "the little man"

We are absolutely shocked at receiving news that this is being contemplated and will be watcing this matter anxiously and will definitely be taking appropriate action.

Your faithfully

Joe and Taryn Russo

A black rectangular redaction box covering the names and contact information of the sender, Joe and Taryn Russo.