



SolarCitizens

Thursday 5th March, 2015

RE: New South Wales State Election - solar policy position

The people of New South Wales love their solar and there is huge potential in this sun-drenched state for solar power to continue to create jobs, boost the economy, produce clean renewable energy and save money for families and businesses, both large and small.

But for solar to reach its full potential in New South Wales it's imperative that the government supports policies necessary to make sure that solar and renewable energy thrives.

Solar Citizens is an independent community-based organisation that aims to protect and grow solar in Australia. We work with our volunteers and supporters to stand up for over five million Australian solar owners and the millions more who want to go solar.

As the 2015 state election is fast approaching, we are contacting all major parties to find out where they stand on key issues for the future of solar power generation in New South Wales.

Please write back confirming your party's position on these very important issues by Monday 16 March, 2015. After that date and ahead of election day on March 28, 2015, we will be publicising and informing our large network of solar voters across NSW of your party's positions on the six solar policy questions listed below.

We hope to hear from you by close of business on Monday 16 March, 2015, otherwise we will be left to unfortunately conclude that the party does not support these policy positions.

Here's what New South Wales solar owners and supporters want to see from the next New South Wales government:

1. NO DISCRIMINATORY SOLAR FEES

Does your party guarantee to prevent fees and charges which discriminate against solar owners and people installing storage systems?

2. A FAIR PRICE FOR SOLAR FED INTO THE GRID

There is currently no regulated minimum price that NSW solar owners are paid for the electricity produced by their solar system, fed into the grid and on-sold by their retailer.

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Individual solar households have little power to negotiate with retailers and many more solar households will be in this position after the Solar Bonus Scheme wraps up in 2016.

Does your party commit to setting a regulated minimum retailer-paid feed-in tariff, set at a fair level for consumers who generate power and feed it back into our state's energy supply?

3. REVERSE AUCTION TO BOOST COMMUNITY & LARGE-SCALE SOLAR

Will your party commit to launching a reverse auction process to support community and large-scale solar projects (similar to the scheme that has proven so successful in the ACT) to allow people who cannot put solar on their own rooftop to benefit from the renewable energy revolution?*

4. TRIAL SOLAR STORAGE - THE WAY OF THE FUTURE

Does your party commit to launching a trial of solar with storage - the next big thing - at a household level (in 1,000 NSW homes) and also at a neighbourhood level to test innovation of technology and business models that will allow solar to run day and night and help maintain our state's energy supply?

5. ENSURE A SMARTER NSW POWER GRID

Does your party commit to ensure networks will take the necessary measures to accommodate more solar in the grid in the future, enable innovative elements like virtual net metering and peer-to-peer solar energy trading and other aspects of a smarter, decentralised grid?

6. STAND UP FOR NSW SOLAR JOBS – PROTECT THE RET

Will your party call on the Federal Government to drop its attempt to slash the 41,000 GWh national Renewable Energy Target, that supports thousands of NSW solar jobs, helps with the price of installation and lowers the wholesale price of power for all consumers, and instead to advocate for the expansion of the Target to at least 50% by 2030?

We look forward to receiving your party's response to these important policy issues.

Sincerely,



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National Director
Solar Citizens

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* http://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/solar_auction