

Dear Professor Garnaut,

Thank you for the opportunity for members of the public to contribute to the material for your Review on Climate Change.

My input is concerned with three areas of public policy that affect me as I work to reduce our family's CC emissions: Subsidies for retrofitting solar hot water; feed in tariffs; recapture of greenhouse refrigerants.

#### ***Subsidies for Solar Hot Water***

We are on off peak tariff for water heating. We receive Green Energy from our electricity provider, but I am still compelled to install SHW to remove our indirect support of coal that's associated with off peak supply.

#### **Off peak is too cheap**

Off peak tariff is so low that despite generous State and Federal subsidies the cost of conversion is a deterrent for many consumers unless they are strongly committed to the environmental benefits.

#### **Subsidies should encourage retrofitting**

My major difficulty with the Govt. subsidies is that they are predicated on **replacing the HW cylinder**. To receive the subsidy I need to replace a perfectly good cylinder. Plumbers have told me that I could expect another 20 - 30 years from our existing low pressure tank. The imbedded energy costs in "writing it off" to receive a subsidy to install a new one are a needless price for the global environment.

I've been told by a small producer of SHW that the few major producers of HW cylinders were asked by Governments how best to operate subsidies... its no surprise that they advocated against retro fitting. I believe that Victoria does allow for retrofitting, but in discussion I've had with NSW policy advisers in this area I was told that the current program that requires full replacement of the HW system allows for good measurable accounting of how much CO2 is removed over x years. Surely a workable system is manageable to account for CO2 savings when retrofitting. Where a HW cylinder fails before the prescribed time, the consumer could be bound to replace it with one that meets set criteria for their SHW collector.

#### **Gas V Renewable Electricity HW boost.**

Gas boost HW cylinders receive more subsidy than electric boost. *This blanket approach ignores electricity supplied from renewable sources* with far less CO2 produced than gas boost. If consumers can be contracted to receive renewable electricity they should be able to receive a subsidy that reflects that reduction to emissions.

#### ***Feed In Tariffs***

Yes please! Great incentive to invest in microgeneration.

#### ***Capture of Refrigerant Gases***

Fridges, Freezers and Air conditioners contain extremely potent greenhouse gases, yet at our [rural]local council recycling station they are compacted for recycled steel without first capturing the gases for recycling or neutralising. There is strict licensing on best practice to recapture gases in the refrigerant servicing industry - but the "end of life" for the appliance appears to have escaped regulation.

I hope the above aspects of climate change mitigation are addressed within your extensive review.

Thank you sincerely for taking this monumental task on.

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