



# Tasmanian Renewable Energy Alliance MEDIA RELEASE

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## Tariff changes a further blow to the solar industry in Tasmania

*“The latest electricity tariff changes announced by the economic regulator add insult to injury for solar owners and installers”* said Jack Gilding, Executive Officer of the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Alliance. *“Electricity prices have risen by nearly 2% but the amount that solar owners are paid for electricity they put back into the grid has gone down!”*

Over the last two years solar industry has been hit with a double whammy:

- [feed-in tariff rates have dropped](#) from 28c to 8c to 6.1c and now to 6.05c.
- due to a [metering software problem](#), solar owners are not getting the full benefit of the energy they produce, in fact at some times solar owners are feeding electricity *into* the grid but are paying an energy charge as if they were receiving electricity *from* the grid

*“Solar owners should be fairly rewarded for providing electricity close to the point of use and avoiding the need for infrastructure that makes up nearly half the cost of electricity.”* said Mr Gilding.

At a time when Tasmania ought to be actively promoting local renewable energy production the [solar industry is actually contracting](#). Tasmania has moved from being a net exporter of renewable energy to an importer of energy. In the last financial year, [Tasmania spent \\$34m](#) more buying dirty brown-coal fired electricity from Victorian than it earned exporting renewable energy to the mainland.

*“The state government needs to take action to ensure that Tasmania again reaps the financial, economic and environmental benefits that flow from being an exporter of renewable energy. A vibrant solar industry is an essential part of this.”* said Mr Gilding.

TREA has [launched a petition](#) and written to Matthew Groom requesting a meeting to discuss what needs to be done by the state government to provide fair treatment for solar owners.

*“Solar PV remains a good investment for many homes and businesses but for the industry to grow again it needs a fair deal from government and consumers need clarity and consistency around policy”* said Mr Gilding.

### Media comment:

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### For more information

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