

4 April 2014

State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Sent via email to: sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Master Electricians Australia is grateful for the opportunity to provide a submission following the introduction of the *Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* (the Amendment Bill).

Master Electricians Australia (MEA) is a dynamic and modern trade association representing electrical contractors. Originating as the Electrical Contractors Association in 1937, we are the leading voice of the electrical and communications industry throughout Australia. The organisation's website is: <http://www.masterelectricians.com.au>.

MEA believes in the benefits of solar panel technology and supports the uptake of solar panels in homes and businesses. However, we are concerned that, to date, this technology has been financially supplemented by government to an excessive degree. The substantial feed-in tariffs mean that the majority of Queensland households are inevitably paying the price for the small minority who are utilising solar panel technology. Users of solar panels realise energy savings simply by virtue of being able to access solar power. Any further financial support only penalises the rest of the public through higher electricity bills.

Abandoning the 8 cent solar feed-in tariff for small customers in South-East Queensland addresses this issue by allowing energy retailers to negotiate directly with homeowners to determine the tariff amount. Retailers receive a more direct and predictable financial gain from a feed-in tariff arrangement due to the avoidance of costs they may otherwise incur in purchasing electricity from the National Electricity Market (NEM). This arrangement will foster competition amongst retailers, enabling homeowners to shop around and potentially even lead to an increase in the feed-in tariff for these customers.

MEA also understands the importance of regional Queensland customers continuing to receive a mandatory feed-in tariff for electricity produced by a small PV generator installed at the premises and exported to the supply network. We support the provisions of the Amendment Bill that will achieve this end.

MEA is confident that the Amendment Bill will result in a more sustainable scheme that provides benefits for all consumers.

Regards,



Stephen King
State Manager - Queensland