

12<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Julian Murray  
General Manager  
Sandhurst Club  
75 Sandhurst Boulevard  
Sandhurst VIC 3977

Dear Julian

Re: Time of use meters and solar installations

Further to your note of last week I wanted to write and update you on the status of time of use meters as they relate to customers installing solar system.

I can confirm that people installing solar systems will be subject to the new system being introduced across Victoria of "time of use tariffs" (peak, shoulder and off peak rates) but this is simply because, as a result of their solar installation, they have had new meters installed (either smart meters or, where they weren't available, bi-directional meters)

It's important to note however that EVERY VICTORIAN CONSUMER will have these new "smart meters" installed in their homes over time. The rollout programme is in full swing and following is a link to the listed suburbs slated for installations as per the state government's website (<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/smart-meters/in-your-area/installation-timetable>). Once installed, these meters will enable time of use pricing to be charged.

I would like to point out that even with the time of use metering, consumers will still be better off with a solar system as they are getting a minimum feed in tariff of \$0.60 cent per kw – which will still be substantially higher than any peak tariffs. This is particularly important for people who do not use much electricity during week days.

It is clear that electricity prices are going up IRRESPECTIVE of whether you have solar or not and there is also a genuine concern that, at times of very high use (mid-summer, hot evenings) the tariffs may be even higher than the new rates currently proposed. It should be said though, that the peak rates should only be applied on weekday afternoons/evenings – and not on weekends – which mitigates the impact of the new charges. A Solar system will have the effect of inoculating you to an extent against future price rises.

**Head and State Offices** P 1300 35 63 63 (Int +61 (0) 3 9566 8300) F +61 (0) 3 9583 9440 [www.ekoenergy.com.au](http://www.ekoenergy.com.au)

**Head / VIC Office**  
4/107 Tulip Street  
Cheltenham VIC 3192  
Australia

**Head / VIC Office Postal**  
PO Box 4222  
Black Rock North VIC 3193  
Australia

**NSW Office**  
24/65-75 Captain Cook Drive  
Caringbah NSW 2229  
Australia

**QLD Office**  
Bld 1 Gateway Office Park  
747 Lytton Road  
Murarrie QLD 4172  
Australia

**SA Office**  
6A Daws Road  
Ascot Park SA 5043  
Australia

We suggest that consumers consult with their retailer regarding the pricing options that will be available and also that they should shop around to find the best deal as they are able to select their electricity retailer, regardless of where they live. To that end please see the attached link to the Alternative Technology Associations website which details retailer's offers (<http://www.ata.org.au/news/ata-national-feed-in-tariff-retailer-survey/>) - customers should choose the best offer for them and furthermore we suggest that they can do this before installation of their system.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries at all regarding this matter

Best regards

**Marcel Merkus**  
Victorian State Manager



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Direct: +61 (0)3 9566 8325  
Mobile: +61 (0)408 586 436  
Phone: 1300 35 63 63  
Fax: +61 (0)3 9583 9440  
Mail: PO Box 4222 Black Rock North VIC 3193  
Office: 6/107 Tulip Street Cheltenham VIC 3192  
Web: [www.ekoenergy.com.au](http://www.ekoenergy.com.au)  
Email: [marcel.merkus@rezeko.com](mailto:marcel.merkus@rezeko.com)

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