

New feed-in tariff arrangements: how they will affect existing customers

Existing small customers will continue to receive their current feed-in tariff rate until 1 January 2019, subject to ongoing eligibility.

From 1 January 2019 these customers will be guaranteed a minimum fair and reasonable feed-in tariff rate that will be determined by the Tasmanian Economic Regulator and reviewed annually.

About the changes

The Tasmanian Government is putting in place new feed-in tariff (FIT) arrangements which will affect small customers with solar PV or other micro renewable generation systems up to 10kW, who currently export excess electricity to the grid.

The Government will introduce legislation so that when Aurora exits the market all customers will have access to a guaranteed feed-in tariff.

For existing small customers, the changes ensure they will continue to receive their current feed-in tariff rate until 1 January 2019, subject to ongoing eligibility.

This will be known as the 'legacy' feed-in tariff and will provide price certainty for an additional five years following the transition to full retail competition from 1 January 2014.

Maintaining eligibility

Customers will continue to be eligible for the legacy feed-in tariff for their current system as long as they don't move house or transfer the electricity account for their current premises to another person (except where it is their spouse) during the five year period.

Eligibility is not transferrable: this means that even if a customer moves to a house with an existing system where the previous owner was

also receiving the legacy feed-in tariff they will not be eligible. Eligibility cannot be inherited or passed on to other family members (except a spouse).

Eligibility will cease if the customer is disconnected from the network for non-payment of their account, for breach of contract, if the account is closed or if they upgrade the capacity of their system after 30 August 2013, even if the capacity is still less than 10kW. System upgrades include the installation of additional solar panels where a system has an upgradeable inverter, as well as upgrades that would require a new or additional inverter. From 31 August 2013, any system upgrade will be treated as a new connection and customers will be eligible for either the transitional (pre-1 January 2014 rate), or the new tariff to be determined by the Tasmanian Economic Regulator, which will take effect from 1 January 2014.

Eligibility is not affected by moving between retailers or contract offers. Customers don't have to register with their new retailer to continue receiving the legacy feed-in tariff rate. Aurora's network division will advise incoming retailers of the customers who are eligible.

For more information visit
www.electricity.tas.gov.au
or call 1800 060 399.