
Solar Limits

From Hazel Matthewson [REDACTED]
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To Connection Feedback <connection.feedback@ea.govt.nz>

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I am writing to give my personal opinion on why the solar export limit needs to be raised. I apologise if this is not the format you desire, but I would like my voice to be heard as I believe I am representative of many residential customers who have invested in solar panels.

Earlier this year, my husband and I invested just over \$30,000 in a solar system. We chose to install a battery as well. Despite all this, we are watching our system partially shut down each day as the solar power we are producing exceeds the needs of our 4-person household and we are limited to exporting 5kw. It seems nonsensical to encourage homeowners to install solar systems and then prevent them from fully utilizing them.

My husband and I both work in large establishments where many of our colleagues are interested in solar generation, and financially in a position to be able to do so. Our advice to them is not to bother, until power companies catch up and allow more power to be exported each day. If I had known how much power I would be wasting each day, as my system reduces capacity, I would not have made the investment. It is frustrating to hear calls for consumers to limit power use to prevent blackouts when power companies are quite happy for small generators, such as myself, to waste power.

Something must change.

Regards

Hazel Matthewson