

From: Jack [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 11:31 AM
To: energyqueensland2025 <energyqueensland2025@aer.gov.au>
Subject: Feedback on proposed Ergon and Energex changes 2025 - 2030. To: Gavin Fox, General Manager

Dear Gavin,

My name is Jack and I am a resident of Wide Bay, Qld.

For a long time I had been passionate about renewable energy. In 2023 I was taking part in newly proposed tariffs trial facilitated by Ergon. My participation was related to Flow Control tariff.

After the trials concluded I received a link via email from Ergon pointing me to the Ergon/Energex proposed pricing strategy for 2025 - 2030. It was disturbing for me to find out that, as a residential solar producer, I will be penalised for solar exports in excess of 1.5kW.

Ergon stipulated wide consultation with industry, customers and electrical contractors. However, I found in the document that numerical examples used for demonstration/comparison purposes were completely unrealistic. Many assumptions (like, for example, shifting power usage to network peak between 11am and 4pm) were flawed and not based on realistic data. I had numerous discussions with many members of my community who are in a similar situation as I am. Our region has more than 50% of solar residential uptake. Ergon's document states that with the current solar export limitations (credit for 1.5kW and penalty for everything over that between 11am and 4pm) only 3% of residents will benefit and almost 50% will be penalised.

I have retired recently and over a year ago I invested in a quality solar system that would assure my power bills to be close to net zero for the rest of my life. If Ergon's proposal goes through I will be forced into Two Way tariff and my power bills will increase substantially. I cannot afford an expensive (and, at this moment, not very reliable) battery (in addition, there is only one type of an exotic battery my solar inverter can work with).

As mentioned earlier, Ergon stipulated widespread consultation with all stakeholders. I approached two major solar installers in my region. None of them ever heard about Ergon's proposal and, in all honesty, they were seriously concerned about viability of their businesses if the change went through. There is a serious concern that solar installations will become financially non-viable and the uptake will plummet after the change. This would cost thousands of jobs in QLD alone.

I understand that switch to renewables and infrastructure maintenance carries substantial cost and is very challenging for energy distributors and retailers. However, based on the information released to date, I (and many others) strongly believe that the current proposal is not representative and the research behind it not thorough enough.

I appreciate your time in reading this letter.

Best Regards

Jack