Submission to AEMC

As a former State MP 35 years ago, I would have seen the mooted charge on private generators of solar PV as a neat means of raising a State revenue.

Now, as a retiree with no means of support other than the rental stream from a small investment property, I am inclined to take a different view.

As it happens, I have been privately and publicly championing PV since I became aware of solar advocacy by Graham Pearman and his colleagues at CSIRO in 1973, and I do not believe that people who invest in PV should be discouraged from selling surplus energy to distributors for distribution and sale to consumers. Among other objections, this amounts to a form of 'double taxation', but my major issue is that it imposes yet another obstacle and disincentive to what amounts to the most urgent and existential problem facing humanity at the moment, namely rampant climate change, runaway bushfires, rising sea level and species extinction.

Private PV represents something of a 'freebie' in the fight against climate change, and it should be accepted as a blessing in itself rather than an opportunist grab for revenue.