

# Going Solar

## what you need to know



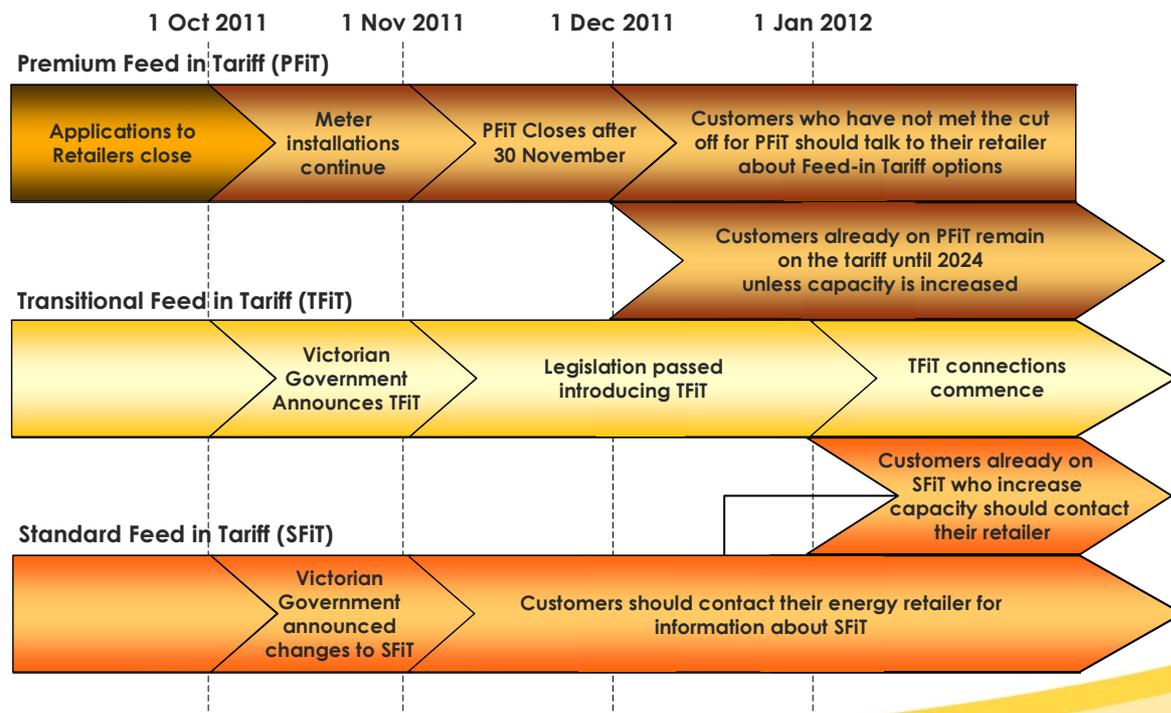
If you are thinking of installing small scale solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation it is important that you understand the options available to you.

This publication provides solar customers with information about the currently available solar tariffs and changes that are about to be implemented that may affect which solar tariff you can apply for or are eligible for. It will hopefully assist you when talking with your solar installer, Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) or retailer.

Changes to Feed-in Tariffs recently announced by the Victorian Government include:

- The closure of the Premium Feed-in Tariff (PFIT)
- Changes to the Standard Feed-in Tariff (SFIT)
- Introduction of a new Transitional Feed-in Tariff (TFIT)

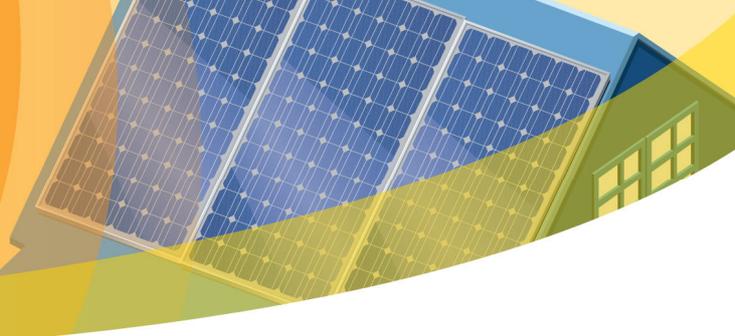
The following shows the expected timeline for the Feed-in Tariff changes, covered in this publication, based on current legislation.



For updates and further details about the legislation and Solar Feed-in Tariff changes, please refer to the DPI website: [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au) > Energy > Sustainable Energy > Solar Energy > Solar Energy for Consumers > Feed in Tariffs

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### Feed-in Tariff Summary

The following table summarises the three Feed-in Tariff options.

**Table 1 - Feed-in Tariffs**

Feed-in Tariff	Credit for energy (minimum)	Scheme ends *	Metering	Network Tariff
SFiT	See retailer	Refer to retailer	Like for Like **	Existing
PFiT	\$0.60/kW	2024	Net instantaneous	Time of use
TFiT	\$0.25/kW	2016 ***	Net instantaneous	Time of use

\* For eligible customers receiving credits in the scheme

\*\* Bi-directional metering retaining existing tariffs and load control

\*\*\* The scheme is intended to have a capped capacity of 75 megawatts of installed solar systems across the state, or other cap criteria are met

### Closure of Premium Feed-in Tariff (PFiT)

In September 2011 the Victorian Government announced that the PFiT is likely to close to new customers after 30th November 2011. A formal announcement is expected in early December.

To qualify for PFiT you must have had your application in by 30th September 2011 and a bi-directional meter installed and connected to the grid by 30th November 2011.

If you have any concerns about your PFiT installation you should contact your retailer.

### Changes to Standard Feed-in Tariff (SFiT)

If you have any questions about changes currently being made by the Victorian Government regarding the SFiT tariff scheme you should contact your retailer.

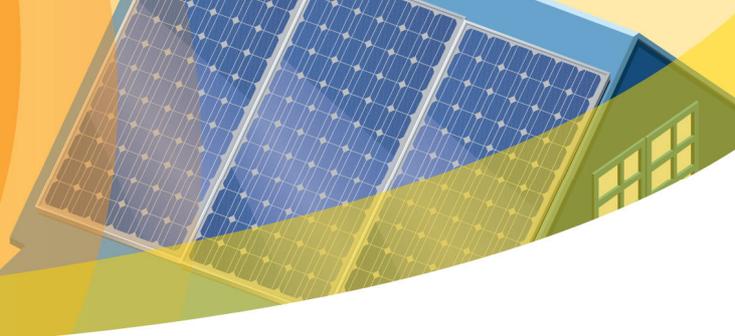
### Introduction of Transitional Feed in Tariff (TFiT)

From 1 January 2012 TFiT will be the main solar Feed in Tariff option if you have a system below 5kW in installed capacity. The scheme is intended to have a capped capacity of 75 megawatts of installed solar systems across the state. TFiT credits will be available to signed up customers until 2016.

If you are yet to submit your application and solar paperwork for a Feed in Tariff you should contact your electricity retailer and ask about TFiT.

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### TFiT Eligibility Criteria \*

To be eligible for TFiT customers must:

- Have a solar PV system **no** greater than 5kW in capacity.
- Be claiming for their principal place of residence (if they are a household).
- Consume 100 megawatt hours or less of electricity per year (if they are a small business or community organisation).
- Claim only one solar PV system per site (if they are a small business or community organisation operating across multiple sites, they can claim for one system per site).
- Have bi-directional metering in place that measures two-way electricity flows and records them on a half hourly basis, i.e. a smart meter.

\* Eligibility criteria as defined on DPI website.

### What happens when a customer signs up for TFiT?

Once confirmed as eligible for TFiT all CitiPower / Powercor customers on the TFiT will:

- Be on network Time of Use tariffs for the energy they draw from the grid.
- Have a bi-directional single element/single meter configuration that allows net metering.
- Need to have any associated wiring work to consolidate and control loads done by a Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) at their own cost.

Wiring arrangements under this Feed in Tariff are not able to accommodate existing dedicated circuits servicing hot water, slab heating or Powercor's Climate Saver reverse cycle air conditioning tariff.

Your retailer may transfer you to a retail Time of Use Tariff. You should confirm the actual retail consumption tariff structure with their retailer.

## Applying for a Solar Feed-in Tariff

### What do customers need to do to apply for Solar?

You should contact your retailer to discuss which Feed-in Tariff best meets your specific requirements, and complete the appropriate application forms and contracts.

### What do solar installers need to do to apply for Solar?

Your installer will need to lodge the following forms with your electricity retailer: Photovoltaic (Solar) Connection Form, Electrical Work Request, Certificate of Electrical Safety

## Net Metering vs Gross Metering

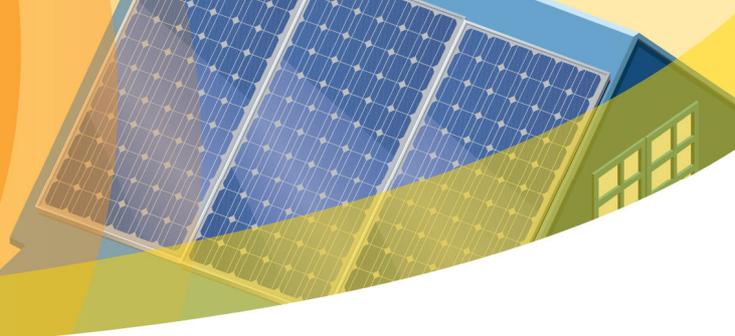
TFiT credits you based on net metering of energy, that is, the net export of energy in excess of your own consumption. This is in contrast to gross metering that measures all the energy generated without taking into consideration what is used at your home or property.

You should ensure that your payback calculations are based on the net output of your house after deducting your own load consumption, rather than the total capacity of the solar panels and/or an inverter.

For more information on Network Specific requirements see: [www.citipower.com.au](http://www.citipower.com.au) or [www.powercor.com.au](http://www.powercor.com.au) > Contractors & Suppliers > Service Installation Rules > Network Specific Requirements

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### Increasing the capacity of solar systems

PFiT Customers	SFiT customers
If you are already on PFiT and add additional panels and/or a larger inverter to your existing solar system, you will no longer be eligible for the premium rate and will need to apply to move to the TFiT.	If you are already signed up to SFiT and are receiving credits should contact their retailer regarding upgrades.

### Legislation

For updates and further details about the legislation and Solar Feed-in Tariff changes, please refer to the DPI website:

[www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au) > Energy > Sustainable Energy > Solar Energy > Solar Energy for Consumers > Feed-in Tariffs

### Government Feed-in Tariff Review

The State Government is also undertaking a review of Feed-in Tariffs that will be carried out by the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC). The review will examine if Feed-in Tariffs are the most effective and economically responsible way to support Victorians to generate solar power. Results are expected in 2012.

### Further information and forms

If you have any questions about the about the closure of the PFiT and SFiT you should contact your electricity retailer who can advise on the best solar deal available to you.

Customers and installers can access further information including application forms and guidelines for the installation of embedded generators from:

[www.citipower.com.au](http://www.citipower.com.au) or [www.powercor.com.au](http://www.powercor.com.au) > Electricity Networks > Powercor Network > Connections > Connecting Generation