

## ***“More Silly Roof Schemes.”***

The Carbon Sense Coalition today called for the immediate suspension of another of Mr Garrett’s silly roof schemes – the Roof Solar Panel Scheme.

“This scheme is driven by the Renewable Energy Target Scheme, Renewable Energy Certificates and obligations on power companies to buy the dribbles of electricity produced by solar panels on domestic homes.”

The Chairman of Carbon Sense, Mr Viv Forbes, said that like the roof insulation scheme, the Roof Solar Panel Scheme was also dangerous, ill planned and a massive waste of community funds.

Forbes commented:

“There are two aspects of electricity demand.

“First is base load demand, which is present 24 hours a day, every day. However sun power is maximised for only a few hours around noon. Thus solar panels cannot replace even one iota of base load generating capacity. Coal, gas, hydro, nuclear or some expensive power storage system must sit there ready to supply 100% of base load demand every night and on any cloudy day.

“The second power consideration is peak load demand, which tends to occur around meal times, night and morning. Solar panels contribute nothing at these times either.

“Therefore every dollar spent on roof solar panels duplicates capital already spent on conventional power generation – ie community capital is wasted.

“Roof solar panels also induce householders into danger.

“Even a small amount of dirt, dust, bird droppings, tree leaves or suicidal kites will dramatically reduce the electricity generated by a solar panel. Someone must climb onto the roof to clean the panel. Someone will fall off.

“Solar power is not free. The provision of sunshine is free, but construction, collection, distribution, maintenance and replacement of solar panels are not free and solar power will always need taxes on competitors or support from taxpayers to survive.

“Surely our parliament cannot be so negligent as to allow rock singers and lawyers to pretend that solar playthings have the reliability, capacity and safety to provide any useful contribution to the future energy needs of our cities, trains, factories, mines and farms?

“If solar panels are so good, consumers will buy them without coercion and subsidies. If they are a dangerous waste, why should other consumers and taxpayers be forced into folly?

“Places like Germany and California have learned to their dismay that massive stimulation of the solar power industry has done three unwelcome things. It has driven up electricity prices, driven away other industry and stimulated the manufacture of solar panels in China. And unless it is propped up by conventional power generation, the next consequence will be network instability and blackouts.

“Solar energy is useful for solar hot water systems, for power in remote locations and for growing plants. It is not useful for generating electricity for modern power grids.

“The Roof Solar Panel Scheme should be suspended immediately and an independent enquiry made into its engineering and financial feasibility.”

Viv Forbes

See also:

***Solar Power Realities:***

<http://carbon-sense.com/2009/07/04/solar-realities/>

***Solar Power Hits the Dust:***

<http://carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/dust.pdf>

***Solar Power - a subsidised Appendage:***

<http://carbon-sense.com/2009/07/05/solar-appendage/#more-214>

***Solar Energy Costs and Economics:***

<http://carbon-sense.com/2009/06/06/solar-energy-costs-economics/>

***Dust on a solar panel will reduce its efficiency by up to 50%:***

[http://docs.google.com/present/view?id=dfhw7d9z\\_0qtk9bsqc](http://docs.google.com/present/view?id=dfhw7d9z_0qtk9bsqc)

Mr Forbes is Chairman of the Carbon Sense Coalition. [www.carbon-sense.com](http://www.carbon-sense.com)

The Carbon Sense Coalition opposes the waste of resources, opposes pollution, and promotes the rational and sustainable use of carbon energy and carbon food.