

From: Tim
To: [Electricity Market Review](#)
Subject: Access Code Amendment Response - Tim Green
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I believe you need to be very careful in how you manage WA's energy market into the future. The current amendments to the Access Code are necessary and should be undertaken.

But the role of government is to provide essential services that cannot, or should not, be subject to competition. Anything that is a monopoly, an essential service, or that requires an immense capital outlay to enter the market, should be managed by government and not privatised - unless government is prepared to remain in the market to provide a cost-effective, no-frills service. We have repeatedly seen large corporations gouging consumers and keeping out small business. It is best demonstrated in the banking sector and is seen in the Health sector (although the public health system undoubtedly curbs the worst excesses of private health care systems - compare us to the USA on health care to see what could be).

A stable, cheap source of electricity is a basic human right. You have already meddled with the market by offering perverse incentives for PV installation. Everyone could see that subsidies of 40c/kwh were unsustainable, and those of us who do not believe in government subsidies stayed out of that one - partly because the capital outlay based on such extravagant subsidies seemed risky to those of us with mortgages, partly because investing in what is essentially 50 year old technology is not really a long term solution to Earth's energy needs. More fool us. At least the folly of feed-in tariffs was recognised reasonably early on. But now you have created a dismal landscape where no one needs baseload power, we have an excess of supply most of the time, but have to prepare for periods when we will need every kwh of fossil fuel generation we can muster. The security of the grid is being jeopardised through interconnections of inverters to the internet while also publicising electricity demand data meaning that our market requirements will be parsed to anyone that is interested. The climate sensitivity to CO2 has clearly been over estimated and natural variability underestimated and so the emissions targets most governments have paid lip service to, even if they did not completely sign up to them, are wildly over done. As a result you will have a general populace enslaved to private corporations who are beholden to their shareholders to make money they thought they would make from carbon credits that lack the underlying value they planned. We are decades away from proper smart grids because anything that can be done for citizens good, can equally be done by foreign states and organised crime for ill. Can you imagine the damage a cyber-attack on a smart-grid could cause? Energy security is national security!

And into this mix, you want to duck out and sell off the assets? Well I can see why, but I can also see that it is completely abrogating your responsibility to clean up the mess you have made. The public are increasingly becoming intolerant of main stream politics and prepared to support anyone that provides an honest message that resonates with them, no matter how practical it may be. Go ahead with this, and even if you win the next election, once the energy market takes the trajectory seen in other countries, you will be consigned to oblivion.

Please show some leadership - stay a strong regulator. Keep control of

power generation in WA (and own the risks that brings, what viable corporation would take on a risk that a government would not unless it thought it could make profit from it?). Call the renewable farce out for what it is and keep looking for controllable, reliable sources of power, the only renewable worth having is hydro and that's not going to work here. Renewables have their place where grids are impractical and in niche applications, but for large cities, they create massive risks when they become a substantial component of the energy generation capacity. Back away very quickly from battery storage. It's vapour ware at the moment and massively risky. You wouldn't store jerrycans of petrol on the walls of your house - but it's OK to do the energy equivalent using batteries? How are you going to detect fraudulent use of generators masquerading as battery input at peak times? How 'renewable' is a high current battery that is being charged and discharged to within an inch of it's life? Perhaps ask Samsung and Malaysian airline about how they feel about that. Meanwhile the best use of solar PV (to run grid-disconnected, discretionary, intensive utilities such as airconditioning and pool pumps, simply aren't commercially available because you've distorted the market in favour of inefficient conversion to alternating current with export back into the grid.

Of course, you could try and attract energy intensive industries to Perth to use the cheap spare capacity, but selling off Western Power and meddling with regulation will be a disaster, especially handing it over to the Commonwealth, look how well they manage the GST! If you can't fix a problem locally, then it can't be fixed - it just seems fixed because you've pushed the problem off shore. Get back to providing services the private sector cannot and should not: Law and order, Taxation, Major infrastructure, Water, Electricity, Health & Aged care and arguably basic banking and insurance. The electorate need some common sense and quickly.

Kind regards,
Tim Green