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## New Measures Proposed to Boost the Uptake of Renewable Energy

The WA Policy Forum (WAPF) has released a new policy paper which advocates the introduction of a feed-in tariff (FiT) for WA to support the development of renewable energy industries and to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

During the recent State Election campaign, both major parties expressed support for a FiT, although the details were not provided. WAPF has therefore produced this paper to stimulate debate on the detailed design of the FiT, which is due to be discussed at a COAG meeting in Canberra in October.

The paper, commissioned from the Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets (CEEM) at the University of NSW, proposes that the WA FiT should apply to all sections of the economy, households as well as businesses and public institutions. Further it should be based on the gross production of electricity from renewable energy and not just on the net amount exported to the grid. It also advocates a generous rate for the FiT to encourage householders and businesses to install roof-top or building-integrated renewable energy systems.

WAPF Director Julian Roche, said that FiTs have been used with great success in Europe, especially in Germany and Spain, where they provide private power suppliers with an attractive guaranteed buyback rate for electricity produced from renewable energy. He said that a FiT is a more effective measure than emissions trading schemes (ETS) for supporting the development of renewable energy systems because ETS tends to favour least-cost options such as reducing energy use through energy efficiency.

“Therefore we need both the ETS at Federal level and the FiT to be introduced as soon as possible by the State Government in order to meet our emissions reduction targets. The FiT will also help to provide more diversity and resilience in our energy supply system and create thousands of new green jobs,” Mr Roche said.

Copies of the Feed-In Tariff paper may be downloaded from [wapolicyforum.org.au/publications/](http://wapolicyforum.org.au/publications/)

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