Media Release

Wednesday 9 September 2009

STATEMENT FROM
MANAGING DIRECTOR RON BAYLEY

Recent media reports have focused on Energex customers in South East Queensland, including several Modern Solar customers, who received higher electricity bills from their power suppliers ***after*** installing photovoltaic (PV) rooftop solar energy systems.

Modern Solar takes each and every enquiry from its customers seriously. That is why we arranged for an independent audit of the systems mentioned in these media reports.

We are happy to report that the independent auditor confirmed that the equipment installed by Modern Solar is working correctly and was not the cause of the increased energy bills.

Modern Solar has been installing the same rooftop solar PV systems in across Australia since late 2007. Issues of this nature have not been reported to us in any other state and territory.

We can, therefore, only conclude the cause of the higher energy bills lays elsewhere and urge the Energy Ombudsman in Queensland to investigate until all matters are resolved.

Modern Solar's systems are IEC accredited and our installers are BCSE registered with the Australian Greenhouse Office, a Federal Government agency.

We believe governments could make it simple for the end user to monitor their energy bills by introducing a Gross Feed-in Tariff that pays electricity customers three or four times the rate for ***every*** kilowatt hour of electricity their rooftop system produces. This system is used in Europe very successfully.

Net feed-in tariffs – which are in place in every jurisdiction except the ACT and only pay for ***excess*** power fed back into the main grid -- are more difficult to monitor because of fluctuations in energy usage during the day.

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Modern Solar is part of The Modern Group - an Australian company employing around 1000 people nationally. Its solar power photovoltaic (PV) systems convert sunlight directly to electricity using solar panels or solar cells mounted on rooftops. The electricity is used to provide power to homes, thus reducing electricity bills, greenhouse gas emissions and consumers' contributions to climate change.