



Solar smart home

Solar pay day 12 years off

IF you are installing solar panels to save money on electricity bills, don't expect the sun to shine any time soon.

Victorian households will have to wait up to 12 years to be paid back on their investment, according to calculations commissioned by consumer watchdog Choice.

The length of time to reap rewards after the costs of putting in and maintaining panels is the second worst in the nation, behind Tasmania.

The analysis follows reports of dodgy installers inflating potential savings.

Energy and Water Ombudsman Fiona McLeod has written to Consumer Affairs Victoria about some shonky outfits installing inferior panels or misleading households about upfront costs.

Alternative Technology Association spokesman Damien Moyse said the money returned to Victorians was less than many other states because there was less sunshine and less opportunity to generate excess electricity to be put back in the grid.

Victorians were paid only a feed-in tariff for excess electricity exported to the grid after their household consumption, rather than a payment for all their generation.

"Anyone saying you'll make your money back in two years is talking rubbish," Mr Moyse said.