



Drop power bills with one sentence

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The Queensland Electricity Users Network is urging households and businesses not to be influenced by a survey commissioned by the Queensland Government's wholly owned Ergon Energy, Energex and Powerlink that claimed that Queensland households are finding it easier to pay their power bills.

"This is the opposite of what we are finding," said Coordinator of the Queensland Electricity Users Network Jennifer Brownie.

"We are calling on all Queensland households and businesses to send a clear message to the Queensland Government by emailing one sentence about their power bills to the Queensland Competition Authority by this Friday 12 April." Click [here](#) to email your sentence.

"Two years ago the Queensland Competition Authority forecast a 1.7% increase in household power bills for regional Queensland then to everyone's dismay released an increase of 7.1%."

"Within hours the Queensland Government intervened and reduced the increase to 3.3%."

"We are very concerned this survey commissioned by Queensland Government owned network businesses gives the wrong impression to the Queensland Government and power bills will not drop as forecast on 1st July 2019."

"The power to reduce Queensland power bills rests solely with the Queensland Government."

"The Queensland Government controls most of the components of a power bill and can drop power bills in both Southeast Queensland and regional Queensland."

Despite tight household budgets the survey found there were fewer households experiencing high power bill stress (8 to 10 rating) compared to last year.

The survey also found that nearly 4 out of 10 households had a low concern (0 to 5 rating) about their ongoing ability to pay their electricity bills.

"This was a household survey but we can't ignore the impact of high power bills on the viability of businesses throughout Queensland."

"Businesses are struggling to keep their doors open and some are sacking people in order to pay their power bills."

"You need a job to pay your power bill."

"An immediate 5% drop in regional power bills is possible if the Queensland Government removes the headroom or standing offer adjustment charge collected by its wholly owned Ergon Energy Retail."

"The headroom charge was dreamt up years ago by the Queensland Competition Authority to promote retail competition in regional Queensland and is endorsed by the Queensland Government."

"The reality is Ergon Energy Retail has a near monopoly in regional Queensland."

"If the Queensland Government directed the Queensland Competition Authority to remove the headroom charge, power bills across regional Queensland would immediately fall by 5%."

"Every minute of the day, regional Queensland homes and businesses are paying a 5% hidden tax for competition that simply does not exist."

Last financial year the Queensland Government's wholly owned Ergon Energy Retail more than doubled its profit to \$263 million from \$120 million the previous year.

“The permanent removal of the nonsensical 5% headroom charge would be evidence that keeping Queensland’s electricity assets in government hands can benefit electricity customers.”

For more information please contact Jennifer Brownie, Coordinator, QEUN on 40 312 865 or visit the QEUN website www.qeun.com.au .

The following graphs are from the 2018 Queensland Household Energy Survey commissioned by the Queensland Government’s wholly owned Ergon Energy, Energex and Powerlink.

