



Regional Queensland paying up to \$600 more in power bills

MEDIA RELEASE - 20 November 2017

Stress from excessively high power prices is everywhere but it is critical in regional Queensland where households are being charged up to 20% more than in Brisbane and businesses up to 30% more.

Coordinator of the Queensland Electricity Users Network, Jennifer Brownie said that analysis of electricity offers on the Australian Energy Regulator's Energy Made Easy website shows the difference.

Cheapest offer with no discounts for a 4 person home in Coorparoo, Brisbane is \$1,962 per year based on an annual consumption of 6,970 kWh. In comparison, a 4 person home in Cairns with the same level of consumption on Ergon Energy's main residential tariff (Tariff 11) which is set by the Queensland Government pays \$2,335 per year or \$373 more per year.

The cheapest offer with no discounts for a small business in Coorparoo, Brisbane is \$1,940 per year based on an annual consumption of 6,853 kWh. A small business in Cairns on Ergon Energy's main small business tariff (Tariff 20) set by the Queensland Government pays \$2,573 per year or \$633 more for the same consumption.

"On top of this, power bill pain is made much greater in regional Queensland due to the need to use air-conditioning during summer."

Most households and small businesses in regional Queensland are captive to the 100 percent Queensland Government owned Ergon Energy.

"In the last two years the Queensland Government increased power bills in regional Queensland by more than 6 percent for homes and a massive 15 per cent or more for regional businesses. On top of the previous steep rises over the past 10 years."

On a scale of 1 to 10 where 10 is extremely concerned, a survey of regional Queensland businesses for the Queensland Electricity Users Network found that 49% rated their high level of concern about paying their power bills in full and on time in the 8 -10 range with 22% rating extremely concerned.

"One thing worse than not being able to pay your home power bill, is losing your job because your boss can't pay his power bills," Ms Brownie said.

"The QEUN survey shows regional jobs are being lost but we are at the precipice of losing substantially more jobs."

"The Queensland Government is using the power bills of regional Queenslanders and the ownership of Queensland's electricity assets as a tax and this has to stop."

"Power bills must fall substantially in Queensland but particularly in regional Queensland where power bills are higher," Ms Brownie said.

For further information please contact: Jennifer Brownie, Coordinator, QEUN, ph: 0740 312 865

COMPARISON OF ANNUAL POWER BILLS FOR REGIONAL QUEENSLAND AND BRISBANE

The comparison of annual power bills was made on 20 November 2017 using the Australian Energy Regulator’s Energy Made Easy website and is based on the following:

- Single rate tariff ie you pay the same rate for electricity, *regardless of when you use it*
- No controlled load for hot water or another appliance
- No pool
- No mains gas connected

PLEASE NOTE

RESIDENTIAL TARIFFS

– the main residential tariff in regional Queensland is **Tariff 11 set by the Queensland Government**

1. The Energy Made Easy website lists Tariff 14 as an alternative to Tariff 11 as a *single* rate tariff. Tariff 14 is sensitive to time and therefore is a *Time of Use* Tariff as per the excerpt below from the Queensland Government Gazette on 16th June 2017:

Tariff 14

This is a residential seasonal time-of-use monthly demand primary tariff.

Daily demand is the average of the 13 half-hourly demand recordings for each day from 3:00pm to 9:30pm for the *Peak* period (Summer) and the *Off-peak* period (all other times).

Peak chargeable demand is the average of the four highest peak daily demands in the month.

Off-peak chargeable demand is the greater of the average of the four highest off-peak daily demands in the month, or 3kW.

Chargeable demand:	
<i>Peak</i>	\$65.818 per kW
<i>Off-peak</i>	\$9.931 per kW
Usage:	17.430 c/kWh
Daily supply charge:	45.749 c

2. The Energy Made Easy website also lists electricity retailers that are not currently providing offers to regional Queensland residential customers ie a residential customer in regional Queensland cannot receive an offer from the retailer once they provide their National Metering Identifier to the retailer. However, the retailer now has the residential customers’ NMI and telephone number and has possibly recorded the conversation if the potential customer did not stipulate to the retailer otherwise.

SMALL BUSINESS TARIFFS

– the main small business tariff in regional Queensland is **Tariff 20 set by the Queensland Government**

1. The Energy Made Easy website lists Tariff 24 as an alternative to Tariff 20 as a *single* rate tariff. Tariff 24 is sensitive to time and therefore is a *Time of Use* Tariff as per the excerpt below from the Queensland Government Gazette on 16th June 2017:

Tariff 24

This is a small business seasonal time-of-use monthly demand primary tariff.

Daily demand is the average of the 20 half-hourly demand recordings for each weekday from 10:00am to 8:00pm for the *Peak* period (Summer) and the *Off-peak* period (all other times).

Peak chargeable demand is the average of the four highest peak daily demands in the month.

Off-peak chargeable demand is the greater of the average of the four highest off-peak daily demands in the month, or 3kW.

Chargeable demand:	
<i>Peak</i>	\$101.553 per kW
<i>Off-peak</i>	\$10.721 per kW
Usage:	18.871 c/kWh
Daily supply charge:	63.289 c

PLEASE NOTE continued

SMALL BUSINESS TARIFFS

- The Energy Made Easy website lists Tariff 66 as small business tariff but it is a **transitional irrigation** business tariff which will be phased out on 1st July 2020 and you must be a irrigation business to access Tariff 66; as per the excerpt below from the Queensland Government Gazette on 16th June 2017:

Tariff 66

This is a transitional irrigation business fixed annual dual-rate demand primary tariff.

The annual fixed charge is determined by the connected motor capacity used for irrigation pumping.

Any customer taking supply under this tariff who requests a temporary disconnection will not be reconnected unless an amount equivalent to the fixed charge that would have otherwise applied corresponding to the period of disconnection, has been paid.

Scheduled phase-out date:	1 July 2020
Fixed charge (annual):	
First 7.5 kW	\$37.503 per kW
Remaining kW	\$112.759 per kW
Usage:	19.338 c/kWh
Daily supply charge:	171.915 c

- The Energy Made Easy website also lists electricity retailers that are not currently providing offers to regional Queensland small business customers ie a small business customer in regional Queensland cannot receive an offer from the retailer once they provide their National Metering Identifier to the retailer. However, the retailer now has the small business' NMI and telephone number and has possibly recorded the conversation if the potential small business customer did not stipulate otherwise to the retailer.