



**MEDIA RELEASE- 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

## **Only one week left to voice your opinion on rising power bills**

Mareeba Shire businesses have one week left to voice their opinion on rising power bills.

Coordinator of the Queensland Electricity Users Network (QEUN) Jennifer Brownie is urging Mareeba businesses to seize the opportunity to reduce their future power bills.

“We have received 160 responses to our online survey and have a target of 200 surveys by 31<sup>st</sup> August.”

“That means we only have one week left to find another 40 businesses who would like to express an opinion on how affordable their power bills are.”

“We know electricity costs are causing pain to a range of businesses but to argue the case for lower power bills we need to provide evidence of the stress levels to policy makers such as the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC),” she said.

The ACCC is holding an Inquiry into Electricity Supply and Prices and must deliver a preliminary report to the Federal Treasurer by 27 September 2017.

The QEUN will provide a report to the ACCC on the findings of the Mareeba business survey.

Ms Brownie said “All individual responses to the survey are aggregated allowing a business to voice an opinion without being identified.”

This week the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) released its quarterly Pulse Survey which contained the results of some additional questions on the “Hot Topic of Electricity”.

The CCIQ survey found that consumers in the regulated market (ie regional Queensland) experienced greater electricity price rises in the past two years compared to the deregulated market (ie South East Queensland).

The Queensland Government is responsible for setting the regulated electricity prices in regional Queensland. It authorised increases in business power bills from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 ranging from 4.1 percent to 7.4 percent depending on the size and type of the regional business.

We urge Mareeba Shire businesses to complete the online survey by 31<sup>st</sup> August on [www.qeun.com.au](http://www.qeun.com.au)

For further information please contact: Jennifer Brownie, Coordinator, QEUN, ph: 40 312 865