



Power Bill reductions not enough and not certain

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The **Draft** prices released today by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) show that the QCA has not listened to households and businesses when setting their **Draft** 2018-19 regulated retail prices.

Over the last 2 years household power bills in regional Queensland have risen by at least 6.1%. If the QCA **Draft** prices become the **Final** prices, household power bills would have increased by around 4% over the last 2 years.

Of equal concern are small business power bills. Almost half of Queensland's workforce is employed by small business.

Small business power bills have increased by 15.3% in the last 2 years. A potential reduction of 4.3% still means small businesses have been hit with more than a 10% rise over 2 years.

To pay their power bills small businesses are making difficult decisions which includes cutting staff hours or jobs or passing on the extra cost of electricity to their customers. Power bills are at unsustainable levels and need to be substantially reduced.

We call on the Queensland Competition Authority to immediately remove the standing offer adjustment and headroom charge from all power bills.

This 5% charge is added to all power bills in regional Queensland to promote retail competition. Ergon Energy Retail has a near monopoly in regional Queensland and therefore this nonsensical charge needs to be immediately removed.

The prices announced today are only **Draft** prices for 2018-19. Last year the Queensland Competition Authority announced a **Final** price that was 7% higher than their **Draft** price.

There is no certainty that these reductions will be delivered when the **Final** price is announced on the 31st of May.

If you cannot make it to a Queensland Competition Authority Workshop to discuss the **Draft** 2018-19 prices, we encourage all businesses to post their power bill experiences on the QEUN website (www.qeun.com.au) and we will include your comments in our submission. This will enable your voice to be heard.

To register for a QCA workshop click on www.qca.org.au/workshops

More information please contact: Jennifer Brownie, Coordinator, QEUN, Ph: 0740 312 865.
For further information on electricity pricing and supply please visit the QEUN website www.qeun.com.au