



Power bill survey extended to Wednesday 21 April

MEDIA RELEASE – 14 April 2021

A two minute survey on how the end of JobKeeper could impact on the payment of power bills has been extended to Wednesday 21 April for businesses and farmers in the Cairns region.

“We are conscious of the time constraints faced by businesses and have ensured the survey can be completed in 2 minutes,”, said Jennifer Brownie, Coordinator of the Queensland Electricity Users Network (QEUN).

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) is in the process of setting the electricity prices and tariffs to be charged to Ergon customers from 1st July this year.

Ergon has a near monopoly on over 720,000 business and residential customers in regional Queensland.

“We know businesses and farmers don’t have time to write submissions to the QCA and the Queensland Government but their participation in this survey will give them a voice on Ergon power bills and tariffs.”

“It is critical the Queensland Competition Authority and the Queensland Government understand how businesses and farmers in regional Queensland are coping with power bills now that JobKeeper has ended.”

“The ability to pay power bills is a strong indicator of how well the economic recovery from COVID-19 is progressing in Queensland.”

The survey results will be included in the QEUN’s submission to the Queensland Competition Authority next week.

The QEUN have committed to share the survey results with peak business and farming organisations.

Sally Mlikota, President, Cairns Chamber of Commerce

“The Queensland Government owns 100% of Ergon. This survey provides a quick and easy opportunity for businesses in the Cairns region to let the Queensland Government know how they are coping with Ergon power bills and Ergon’s current range of electricity tariffs.”

Mark Olsen, CEO, Tourism Tropical North Queensland

“Visitor numbers are improving, however, operators are still dealing with the cost of COVID-19 closures to their business and this survey could shed light on whether assistance is needed with power bills.”

Joe Moro, President, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce and President, FNQ Growers

“Prior to COVID-19 a QEUN survey of over 200 businesses and farmers in the Mareeba Council area found they were struggling with power bills. Participation in this QEUN survey will provide an insight into how businesses are currently coping with their power bills.”

Dr Georgina Davis, CEO, Queensland Farmers’ Federation

“This is a short survey that will provide powerful insight into the current level of awareness and understanding of electricity billing practices and electricity bills. This insight then assists advocacy bodies such as Queensland Farmers’ Federation campaign for better outcomes for business.”

The QEUN survey is seeking responses from a wide range of businesses and farmers regardless of whether they had staff on JobKeeper or not.

The survey is open to all businesses and farmers in the Cairns region.

To complete the survey please visit the QEUN website www.qeun.com.au or click on the link provided in a communication from one of the peak business or farming organisations.

The survey closes on Wednesday 21 April 2021.

Participation in the survey provides you with a voice on Ergon electricity prices and tariffs.

For more information visit the QEUN website www.qeun.com.au or contact Jennifer Brownie, Coordinator, Queensland Electricity Users Network on 0428 363 474.