



Queensland electricity tax causes job losses

MEDIA RELEASE- 12 June 2018

“The Queensland Government’s reliance on a tax called electricity bills to prop up the Budget is putting jobs at risk and slowing the Queensland economy,” said Coordinator of the Queensland Electricity Users Network (QEUN) Jennifer Brownie.

“Electricity bills are nothing more than a compulsory tax charged to almost every home and business in Queensland.”

“The Queensland Government is trumpeting the news that next financial year households in regional Queensland will see the largest fall in power prices in a decade.”

“It’s impossible to say how much or even if residential power bills will fall until the Queensland Government announces the 2018-19 metering charges,” Ms Brownie said.

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) delivered their advice on metering charges to the Queensland Government on 1st June and the Queensland Government is expected to make a decision later this month.

Without the inclusion of metering charges, a typical residential power bill will fall by 38 cents per week.

If the Queensland Government accepts the QCA advice on metering charges, a typical residential power bill will fall by a paltry 27 cents per week.

“What can a household buy with an extra 27 cents per week?” Ms Brownie said.

“This paltry saving of 27 cents per week does not create jobs nor does it ease cost of living pressures.”

“To stimulate the economy and create jobs, the Queensland Government needs to immediately reduce residential power bills by 10 percent and business power bills by at least 20 percent, in particular for farmers who have suffered a 17 percent increase in their power bills in just two years.”

“This will require the Queensland Government to wean itself off the billions of dollars it receives in the Budget from state owned electricity assets and instead charge Queensland residential and business customers no more than necessary to provide the essential service of electricity.”

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