



Queensland Government has the power to reduce power bills

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“The power to reduce Queensland power bills rests with the Queensland Government,” Coordinator of the Queensland Electricity Users Network (QEUN) Jennifer Brownie said.

“The Queensland Government’s policy to keep electricity price rises below inflation over the next two years shows just how much they are out of touch with cost of living pressures.”

“For over a decade Queensland power bills have risen by much more than inflation, driven by the Queensland Government’s extraction of multi-billion profits from its generation and network assets.”

“Queensland may have the lowest electricity prices in the National Electricity Market but survey after survey confirms homes and businesses are struggling to pay their power bills,” Ms Brownie said.

The Queensland Household Energy Survey commissioned by the Queensland Government’s wholly owned network businesses Ergon Energy, Energex and Powerlink found that power bill concern was at its highest levels yet recorded. Click [here](#) to read the survey report.

“In Southeast Queensland 51% of homes were highly concerned (rating 8 to 10) about their ongoing ability to pay their power bills compared to a staggering 59% of homes in regional Queensland.”

“People should be able to afford to turn on their heater this winter rather than being forced to choose between staying warm and paying their rent or mortgage.”

“This not just a decision being forced on homes reliant on Centrelink payments, it’s a decision being made in the homes of middle Australia every day,” Ms Brownie said.

“Of equal concern is the impact of unsustainable power bills on businesses.”

“People need jobs to pay their household power bills. However, more and more businesses are being forced to sack staff or reduce staff hours in order to pay their business power bills.”

“Reducing the profits extracted from Queensland Government owned generator and network assets will immediately help ALL Queensland homes and businesses to afford their power bills.”

“The power bill stress is even greater in regional Queensland as homes and businesses are paying at least 20% more than Southeast Queensland electricity customers.”

“An immediate drop in regional power bills is possible if the Queensland Government removes the headroom or standing offer adjustment charge collected by its wholly owned retailer Ergon Energy Retail.”

“The headroom charge was dreamt up years ago by the Queensland Competition Authority to promote retail competition in regional Queensland and is endorsed by the Queensland Government.”

“The reality is Ergon Energy Retail has a near monopoly over 97% of the geographic area of Queensland.”

“If the Queensland Government directed Ergon Energy Retail to remove the headroom charge, power bills across regional Queensland would immediately fall by 5%.”

“The removal of the nonsensical 5% headroom charge would be evidence that keeping Queensland’s electricity assets in government hands can benefit electricity customers.”

For more information please contact Jennifer Brownie, Coordinator, QEUN on 40 312 865 or visit the QEUN website www.qeun.com.au . Please refer to graphs on the next page.

The following graphs are from the 2017 Queensland Household Energy Survey:

