



Government money grab risks regional jobs

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“The Queensland Government plans to rip nearly \$100 million out of regional Queensland next year by charging customers for retail competition that does not exist in regional Queensland,” said Jennifer Brownie, Coordinator of the Queensland Electricity Users Network.

“Today’s announcement by the Queensland Competition Authority of a small reduction in regional power bills completely ignores the Queensland Government is adding around 10 percent to regional power bills for something that doesn’t exist.”

“An average home in regional Queensland pays about 25 cents per day for non-existent retail competition.”

“With over 600,000 residential customers this amounts to a drain of \$56 million from the regional economy.”

“A typical small business in regional Queensland will pay about 28 cents per day raking in another \$9 million for the Queensland Government.”

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission estimate it costs \$48 to acquire and retain an electricity customer.

“Ergon Energy Retail is a near monopoly and doesn’t have to fight to acquire or retain its customers.”

“This means the Queensland Government drains another \$34 million from the regional Queensland economy.”

“This \$100 million should be in the pockets of regional Queensland homes and businesses.”

“A \$100 million spent in regional Queensland would support much needed regional jobs.”

“The Queensland Government has chosen to charge regional Queenslanders for costs that it’s wholly owned retailer Ergon Energy Retail does not incur.”

“Regional Queensland is being used as a cash cow by the Queensland Government.”

Last year Ergon Energy Retail more than doubled its profits to \$263 million, with \$177 million being paid to the Queensland Government.

“This exorbitant profit caused businesses to sack staff and nearly 13,000 homes to have their electricity disconnected for non-payment.”

“The QEUN urges the Queensland Government to support regional jobs and to reduce the cost of living by further reducing regional power bills.”

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