

TO : ELECTRICITY PRICING INQUIRY AND
SOLAR FEED-IN PRICING INQUIRY

QLD PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

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BRISBANE QLD.

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TOTAL NINE PAGES.

DEAR MADAM/SIR,

I SAW YOUR ADVERTISMENT ON PAGE 5, OF MY LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND DECIDED TO SUBMIT MY VIEWS, AS PER YOUR INVITATION.

I DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER AND CAN'T MAKE IT TO YOUR MT ISA, PUBLIC HEARING, BUT YOUR OFFICE WAS ABLE TO SUPPLY ME YOUR FAX NUMBER AND MAILING ADDRESS.

THANK YOU.

YOURS SINCERELY,



DISABLED PENSIONER

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I AM A DISABLED PENSIONER LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING IN MT ISA WHERE I HAVE LIVED FOR 24 YEARS. MY VIEWS ARE :-

(A) I UNDERSTAND FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER (THE NORTH WEST STAR), THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE COST INVOLVED IN PRODUCING ELECTRICITY IN A REMOTE CITY LIKE MT ISA AND THAT COST IS HEAVILY SUBSIDISED BY THE QLD GOVERNMENT SO THAT ERGON CAN CHARGE US AT A RATE POSSIBLY SIMILAR TO BRISBANE. I HOPE THIS SUBSIDY IS ABLE TO BE CONTINUED.

(B) I AM ALSO THANKFUL FOR THE QLD GOVERNMENT REBATE GIVEN TO PENSIONERS IN QLD AND ADMINISTERED BY ERGON. I HOPE THIS REBATE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO BE CONTINUED. I HOPE PENSIONERS ARE NOT SUBJECTED TO AN ASSETS AND INCOME TEST FOR THAT REBATE.

(C) I UNDERSTAND FROM MEDIA REPORTING THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC DEBT, WITH INTEREST PAYABLE ON IT AT THE STATE, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL. I BELIEVE THAT NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS INQUIRY RE SEEKING FURTHER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AS ONE CONCLUSION OF THE INQUIRY.

(D) I PAY MY ELECTRICITY ACCOUNT EVERY THREE MONTHS. I PAY ERGON FOR THEIR TARIFF 11 AND 31. I AM THANKFUL THAT 31 IS VERY LOW COST AT JUST 12.48 CENTS PER KWH, AS ERGON CONTROLS THE TURNING ON AND OFF OF ELECTRICITY TO MY ELECTRIC

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HOT WATER TANK, USUALLY AT THE SAME TIME EACH DAY. TARIFF 11 THOUGH IS 22.238 CENTS PER KWH AND MOST OF THE EXPENSE OF MY ELECTRICITY ACCOUNT IS FOR THAT RESIDENTIAL RATE. I AM HOME MOST DAYS SO USE ELECTRICITY SPREAD OUT OVER THE 24 HOURS. IN SUMMER I USE A LOT MORE FOR COOLING AS 43°C IS NOT UNUSUAL AND THIS IS AN OLD CONCRETE SHEET HOUSE. I HAVE SEEN MY ELECTRICITY ACCOUNT RISE CONSIDERABLY IN THE PAST 15 YEARS, OR SO, DUE TO WHAT MEDIA REPORTS STATED WERE BIG SCREEN TV SETS THAT NOW USE FAR LESS ELECTRICITY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO DECREASE IN ELECTRICITY COST, POSSIBLY DUE TO INFRASTRUCTURE PUT IN PLACE THAT WHILE USED LESS, CAN'T BE DISASSEMBLED. I AM HAPPY TO PAY MY SHARE OF THE COST OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY. I DO HOPE EREON FUNCTIONS AT A PRACTICAL LEVEL OF EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS WITH EREON OFFICE AND EXTERNAL WORKERS HAVING ACCESS TO, OR PURCHASING FOR THEMSELVES, ALL SAFETY EQUIPMENT THEY NEED AND SAFETY TRAINING. I THINK AUDITS CAN HELP WITH EFFICIENCY. I THINK EREON WORKERS SHOULD, AT A MINIMUM, HAVE A SUGGESTION BOX, AS THEIR "COAL FACE" EXPERIENCE IS INVALUABLE.

Ⓔ I PAY THE EREON CLEAN

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ENERGY 500 kWh RATE OF \$30, AFTER G.S.T., TO HELP TOWARDS ERGON BUYING ELECTRICITY MADE BY SOURCES THAT CAUSE FAR LESS GREEN HOUSE GASES THEN THE CHEAP BURNING OF COAL SOURCE. THE NEXT STEP UP IS \$90 PER ACCOUNT. POSSIBLY THIS COULD BE IMPROVED BY OFFERING \$5 PER ACCOUNT INCREASES, RATHER THEN HAVING THAT HUGE JUMP FROM \$30 PER ACCOUNT TO \$90 PER ACCOUNT.

(F) WHILE I ONLY HAVE A CENTER-LINK PENSION AS INCOME, I HAVE, FOR SOME YEARS, DONATED A SMALL, ANNUAL AMOUNT TO TWO RESPONSIBLE, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS WHO DO GOOD WORK FOR THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY. AS A RESULT OF READING THEIR NEWSLETTERS, NEW SCIENTIST, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, ETC, I AM AWARE OF THE GREEN HOUSE EFFECT AND SO WISH TO SEE TREES PLANTED AND ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS INTRODUCED. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO HAVE A SOLAR PANEL SYSTEM INSTALLED AND HAVE RECEIVED WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM QLD HOUSING TO INSTALL ONE. IF ERGON CAN AFFORD IT, I HOPE ERGON CAN PAY A GOOD PRICE TO THOSE GENERATING SOLAR ELECTRICITY, TO ENCOURAGE AS MUCH PRODUCTION AS POSSIBLE.

4NON PRICING CONCERNS.

(G) I LIVED IN BURKETOWN IN 19-91-92 AND FOUND THE FUMES, PLUS NOISE OF DIESEL GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY, FOR THE TOWN, UNHEALTHY.

(H) I WOULD HOPE ALL ELECTRIC HOT WATER SYSTEMS, OF ALL SIZES, WHETHER FOR INDOOR, OR OUTDOOR USE, ARE MANUFACTURED WITH A TEMPERATURE CONTROL SO CUSTOMERS CAN TURN THE TEMPERATURE DOWN TO 50°C IN SUMMER, POSSIBLY ALL YEAR ROUND IN NORTHERN PARTS OF QLD. I WOULD HOPE HEAVY BLANKETS FOR THE VARIOUS SIZES OF ELECTRIC, HOT WATER, TANKS, WHETHER INDOOR, OR OUTDOOR (WATER PROOF BLANKET), ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR CUSTOMERS TO PURCHASE TO ADD A HEAVY LAYER OF INSULATION TO ELECTRIC, HOT WATER, SYSTEMS. THE MATERIAL USED FOR INSULATING HOT WATER PIPES WHICH RUN FROM THE HOT WATER SYSTEM WHETHER ELECTRIC, OR GAS, ARE AVAILABLE AT HARDWARE STORES AND THAT MATERIAL IS QUITE CHEAP. I FOUND IT HARD TO FIT AS IT IS A CIRCULAR, LONG MATERIAL, WITH A SPLIT IN IT, TO PIPES HELD FLAT AGAINST JOISTS UNDER THE HOUSE AS THIS MATERIAL HAS TO

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BE
I SLIPPED OVER THE PIPE. I DO
N'T BELIEVE IT IS COMPULSARY
FOR PLUMBERS TO HAVE TO FIT
SUCH INSULATION, BUT I THINK IT
SHOULD BE.

(I) I WOULD HOPE ALL ELECTR-
IC HOT WATER TANKS HAD A
WATER FILTER FITTED TO THE
PIPE SUPPLYING WATER TO THE
TANK, WITH THE FILTER BEING
CHANGED REGULARLY. THIS WOU-
LD BE FOR REDUCING THE BU-
ILD UP OF MINERALS ON THE
ELECTRIC ELEMENT, WHICH COS-
TS CONSUMERS MORE IN ELEC-
RICITY, AS THE BUILD UP INCR-
EASES FOR THE SAME QUANTITY
OF HOT WATER. IT ALSO REDUC-
ES THE LIFE OF HOT WATER TA-
NKS.

(J) THE CUT OFF CIRCUIT BREA-
KERS TO PREVENT DEATHS FROM
ELECTRIC SHOCK, I BELIEVE, ARE
MADE IN TWO TYPES. ONE THAT
PREVENTS ADULTS DYING AND
SECONDLY, A MORE SENSITIVE ONE
THAT PREVENTS SMALL CHILDREN
FROM DYING FROM ELECTRIC
SHOCK. I THINK ONLY THE LA-
TTER SHOULD BE MANUFACTU-
RED AND INSTALLED QD WIDE.

(K) I BELIEVE THERE WILL BE
MORE TERRORIST ATTACKS. I
WOULD HOPE ALL EREON COMPU-
TERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT
CONTROL PRODUCTION AND DIST-

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TRIBUTION, ARE NOT LINKED TO EXTERNAL PHONE LINES SO TERRORISTS, HACKERS, ETC, CAN'T TAKE CONTROL, REMOTELY. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED FROM TERRORIST ATTACK AS MUCH AS IS AFFORDABLE. A TV DOCUMENTARY SPECULATED THAT IN A LARGE SCALE WAR AN ELECTROMAGNETIC(?) PULSE BOMB COULD BE USED TO KNOCK OUT A LOT OF ELECTRONIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO HELP Cripple AN ENEMY NATION. PROTECTION FROM SUCH MAY BE TOO EXPENSIVE FOR ERCON.

(L) THEFT OF ELECTRICITY, ERCON EQUIPMENT, COPPER WIRING, ETC, SHOULD BE ABLE TO BE MINIMISED BY THE EMPLOYMENT OF AN EXPOLICE WOMAN/MAN, WITH WIDE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, TO ADVISE ERCON ON SUCH MATTERS.

(M) ELECTRICITY FROM COAL BURNING IS CHEAP. A POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE ARTICLE, SOME 15 YEARS AGO, SHOWED THE LATEST GERMAN TECHNOLOGY OF CRUSHING THE COAL TO DUST, THEN BLOWING THE DUST INTO THE FURNACE, TO MAXIMISE BURNING

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NE OF THAT COAL. HOPEFULLY
BAG HOUSES AND OTHER TYPES
OF FILTERS CAN BE USED AT
QLD COAL BURNING, ELECTRICITY
PLANTS TO REDUCE SULPHUR
AND P.M. 0.05, ETC, EMISSIONS.
IN MT ISA SOME OF THE FU-
MES FROM COAL BURNING GO TO
A PLANT THAT TURNS THOSE
FUMES INTO SULPHURIC ACID.
WHILE THE COST OF PRODUCTION
WOULD INCREASE, THE PUBLIC
MAY BE WILLING TO PAY MORE
FOR THE CLEAN AIR, THUS BET-
TER HEALTH. TALL STACKS RE-
LEASING FUMES INTO AIR CU-
RRENTS CAN SEND THE FUMES
VERY LONG DISTANCES WITH
PARTICULATES, SMOKE FALLING
DOWN OVER THOSE VERY LONG
DISTANCES. AIR MONITORING EQUIPMENT
IN MT ISA IS ESSENTIAL FOR KEEPING FUMES
AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC.

(N) A RECENT CATALYST (?) PRO-
GRAM ON A.B.C. TV MENTION
ED HOW SOME GROUPS INSTALL
UNG SOLAR AT A NEW HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT WERE LOOKING FOR-
WARD TO LOWER COSTS FROM
HAVING A FAR SMALLER CON-
NECTION TO THE GRID AND RE-
LYING ALMOST TOTALLY ON SOL-
AR. I THINK THEY ARE TAKING
A RISK AS IF A NUCLEAR
WINTER, OR DUST FROM A BIG
METEOR STRIKE, OR DUST FROM

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A BIG VOLCANO ERUPTION, ETC, OCCURS AND THOSE 20, OR 50, HOUSES CAN'T GET MUCH SOLAR POWER THEY WILL NEED A FULL, OR NEAR FULL GRID CONNECTION, WHETHER, OR NOT THEY HAVE THE BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM INSTALLED TO THEIR SOLAR PANEL SYSTEM.

© SOME YEARS AGO, PERHAPS IN THE 1980IES, AN EDITION OF NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE WAS PUBLISHED THAT HAD AN ARTICLE ABOUT HOW PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER HAD PRIVITISED A LOT OF U.K. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. ONE WAS ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT IT RESULTED IN THE U.K. GOVERNMENT LOSING CONTROL OF WHERE ELECTRICITY PRODUCERS SOURCED THEIR ENERGY TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY, SUCH THAT WITHIN ONE, OR TWO DECADES, THE U.K. WAS IMPORTING MOST, OR ALL, ENERGY. THERE IS A MESSAGE IN THIS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE QLD PRIVITISE ITS ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION.