

The recent Government price gouge by increasing the supply charge (in my case by 40%) is unacceptable and a blatant rip off of the people of Queensland.

It is plain to see that as people use less power the Government gets less revenue so the electricity generators Energex and Ergon along with the QPC and the Government appointed price regulator has decided to stick it to us by increasing the supply charge just to have access to electricity and maintain or increase the Governments revenue stream as kwh usage per annum drops.

Energex and Ergon as government owned corporations make hundreds of millions of dollars profit by having a monopoly on the electricity supply market. The dividend paid to the Government in an indirect way is a form of tax revenue.

Water supply and electricity are basic necessities of life which are now completely controlled by the government who can charge people whatever they want. You may say there are regulators in place that oversee the pricing however they are all Government appointed and have never turned down an increase.

When is the QPC going to recommend to the Government to include consumer and ACCC representation in the process of setting pricing on this monopoly.

The Electricity grid is going from a usage charge to an access charge. As we drop our demand on electricity due to high prices which is how the free market works the QPC seems to be working with the Government by shoring up its funding by flagging through the increase in access charge. (Supply charge)

I have read the price regulators report and reports from Energex and quite frankly they are very difficult to understand unless you are a lawyer or an accountant.

I could not find the words (supply charge) in any of these reports which is what it is called on my electricity bill.

In my case the supply costs went up 40% and the usage costs went down approximately 10%.

I am a conservative energy user and am penalised for it. The supply charge is now 45% of my bill. This hurts pensioners and low income earners which your report says is just a mere 4.8% of their disposable income based on 4053kwh per annum. Where do you get those numbers from? I am a low energy user (no air conditioning or heating) at 4308kwh per annum which equates to an annual power bill of \$1386. The single aged pension including pension supplement and energy supplement is \$22,542. This adds up to 6.15% of a pensioner's disposable income.

I know most pensioners don't use air conditioning or heating and if they do this could equate to 10% plus of their disposable income. With the high cost of living, rates and water bills this is a significant amount.

With Energex and Ergons huge billion dollar profits at stake how does the QPC justify the Governments power generators accounting switch around by increasing the supply charge by 40% and slightly decreasing energy use by 10% saying it reflects the true costs of supplying electricity when \$1.3 billion dollars profit is being made.

Regards

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