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This is a Public Submission

Firstly, let me say that we are Aged Pensioners and as such try to be as frugal as possible with our electricity usage. We don't have Solar Power as we don't use enough electricity to make the initial investment worthwhile. We DO have Solar Hot Water. We also ensured that our three year old house was built using optimum siting designs plus the use of effective wall and roof insulation, which, together with our ceiling fans means that we rarely need to use our single reverse cycle inverter air conditioner.

We are on an AGL Select Plan which gives us 8% off our usage costs for a Direct Debit arrangement, and we are also grateful recipients of the Qld Govt Pensioner Discount.

One would think therefore that we have little reason to fear our three monthly account. Alas, this is not so due to some (not so subtle) slight of hand in the way electricity is billed.

The Tariff 11 USAGE Charges are not the problem;

Early 2014 our rate was 26.73c per kWh

On 1 July 2014 this reduced to 25.37c due to the removal of the Carbon Tax

Then on 12 August 2015 it was reduced again to 22.23c in what was trumpeted by our Government as a 'rebalancing'.

Thus our usage costs have reduced by 16.8%, 5.1% of which was due to the removal of the Carbon Tax.

At the same time our FIXED DAILY Charges have skyrocketed as follows;

Early 2014 @ 50.21c per day

July 2014 83.41c per day

August 2015 116.38c per day, that is an INCREASE of 131.8%

Thus there is no way for we careful users of electricity to avoid being slugged.

Our State Government attempts to convince us that they have electricity charges under control claiming that 'for the first time in many years, electricity prices in Queensland have stabilised' and that 'many consumers will pay less for power consumption, seeing a small reduction'. Even being generous this is tricky language. The amount we pay is the TOTAL bill, usage plus fixed. I ran out a comparison of TOTAL PRICE CHANGES comparing our usage with usage rates (according to AGL) of Efficient Similar Homes, and of Average Homes.

Even allowing for the Carbon Price reduction, with OUR USAGE (over 3 months) of 730 kWh our total cost has increased by 11.11%

An Efficient Similar Home at 1226.5 kWh has
increased by 1.17%

An Average Home at 1533.2 kWh has
decreased by 2.07%

Thus the only consumers benefitting from these changes to pricing models are those who use more than the average ,ie. those with inefficient homes or those who use electricity like there is no tomorrow. I thought we were supposed to be conserving resources not being rewarded for squandering them.

We realise that the power generators are struggling to cover fixed costs due presumably to people cutting back on power usage in the face of recent price increase, plus the rapid growth in Solar Power generation (caused by an ill considered incentive plan that took no heed of the impact either on usage volumes, or infrastructure costs associated with handling all the power now traveling the 'wrong way' down the power grid) however we do not appreciate being made to pay for those who now use their own generated power, nor do we appreciate paying for the system to be ' gold plated '. Nor are we impressed being made to pay for a State Government desperate for the (now 100%) Dividend they are raking off the system to compensate for their illogical commitment to 'not sell any State assets'.

Promises that the latest price hikes will be the end of it will presumably go the way of most political promises.

Already we are being told about a "new" meter reading charge being added to our accounts.

In summary, we would like to see those of us who run efficient homes and who do not waste electricity being rewarded, not disadvantaged as is currently the case.

regards'
Ray Derbyshire