

From: Julia Jessop [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 February 2014 4:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Electricity Prices

[REDACTED]

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"I have heard that you are asking the public for their comments about electricity prices.

I would like to make an appeal for prices not to go up. Every year we hear the demands of the electric producers to increase prices, but I don't think the regulators consider what that is like for us public.

I am a single mum, I clean for a living @ under \$20 an hour, and I can only work a certain number of hours a day because of a shoulder injury. I live with my 2 teenage children in a rental house. I have no control over the electric used by the older appliances in this house, so if the hot water or fridge are inefficient and use a lot of electric I can't do anything about that. We do try to limit our usage of electrical items. The house is fitted with ceiling fans and an air conditioner but I will not allow the children to use any of these even in the hottest weather. Sweat is pouring off me as I type this but I simply can't afford to put the fan on. In cold weather we just wear extra clothes and do not use any form of heating except sometimes a hot water bottle. I use the washing machine at night.

Despite these restrictions and even though we have managed to cut our electric usage, my bills continue to go up. I am told that this is so that capacity can be maintained for other people to be able to use fans and air-conditioning etc.

I think it is grossly unfair that I have to pay for extra network capacity for rich people to be able to use fans and air-conditioning and pool pumps and heating etc etc.

I'm also told that it is so that rich people who own their houses can make a good return on their solar power investments. I have been to sports gatherings where people brag about how much money they are making or how low their power bills are now. Again I think this is grossly unfair, though I know the government has lowered the rate amount they pay for new solar-generation installations.

I cannot see any way to lower my usage further, nor can I see any way to pay more. My budget only allows us \$70 a week for the three of us for groceries and other shopping. Because of that I have to buy lots of cheap ingredients and meat and that all requires electricity for cooking though I often cook 2 meals at a time and use the slow cooker which is low power. So my bill is reasonably high because I have to cook every day. Both my daughters have health conditions so I make sure we eat healthy food and lots of vegetables. Food that doesn't have to be cooked such as salads or nuts (or takeaways) are just too expensive for me to buy.

Electric is a large and essential part of our budget even without cooling and heating, and the biggest problem for me is that it just keeps on going up in price, when income does not."

I have also looked at the link you gave me regarding concessions but they all relate to pensioners and I am not on a pension. With regard to electricity provider, I am on a contract with the RACQ which I think is one of the better contracts available. But whoever you are with, the main problem is that the bills just keep going up, and our pay does not!

Julia Jessop