

We are already paying huge electricity bills as a so called "large user" which is grossly unfair on a small business grossing just over \$500,000 annually. As you can see from our gross income we are certainly not a large business. We are unable to absorb any further increases in electricity prices and will have to increase our accommodation prices as a result of increased electricity prices. This will result in our business losing its competitive edge and our business will suffer as a result. North Queensland is already unfairly paying higher tariffs than those paid by individuals and businesses in South East Queensland and the tyranny of distance and smaller population centres is also against us. Increased electricity tariffs in North Queensland would further aggravate the discrepancies in the electricity tariffs we pay as against the south eastern corner of Queensland and it is unfair competition to expect us to pay higher tariffs than the southern part of the state and still try and compete. Wages are also lower in the northern part of the state and our customers cannot afford to pay the increased tariffs both for themselves and the increases that we would be forced to impose to keep our business profitable. Imposing such increases will force individuals to move south and further deplete the population in the northern part of Queensland. This cycle will repeat itself with more and more businesses failing and people moving out of depressed areas to find work.