



Hon Duncan Gay MLC
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council
Leader of the Nationals in the Legislative Council
Shadow Minister for Industry

2 February 2010

James Cox
Acting Chairman and CEO
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Dear Mr Cox

I write in relation to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) New Draft Determination on Electricity Prices until 2013.

Following on from the 20% increase in prices last July, the proposal to increase regulated retail electricity prices by between 44% and 62% over three years will have a devastating effect on many people in NSW, in particular families and small businesses.

A large proportion of this increase has come following the Australian Energy Regulator approving network increases in order to upgrade our energy infrastructure.

The fact NSW electricity customers have to bear the burden of this is simply unfair, given that it's largely the current Government's failure to reinvest the money, reaped from the retailers over the past 15 years, back into upgrading infrastructure.

The NSW public have already paid once for these upgrades in their electricity bills.

While enduring increasing costs, the public have also had to put up with increasing blackouts.

It is clear that by allowing standards of service to slide and failing to deliver on key infrastructure improvements while at the same time increasing prices, the State Government is failing in its duties to NSW electricity consumers.

Under these recommendations Country Energy customers are set to suffer the highest increase, at 62% over the three years.

More than 95% of NSW is currently in drought and people living in regional NSW are already under enormous pressure after more than eight years of drought.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals believe it's completely unfair that the public have become the victims of this Government's mismanagement of our electricity infrastructure.



Hon Duncan Gay MLC
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council
Leader of the Nationals in the Legislative Council
Shadow Minister for Industry

The Government's \$272 million Customer Assistance Package will simply not be enough to take the edge off for those already struggling under the financial pressure of last year's 20% increase.

I request you to reconsider these huge price rises that could destroy some businesses and cripple already struggling families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Duncan Gay'.

Hon Duncan Gay MLC
Shadow Minister for Industry