



Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen  
Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Our Ref: MN11752-2023  
Your Ref: A1156001

12 October 2023

1 William Street  
Brisbane Queensland  
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +617 3719 7270  
E: epw@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Email: TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I refer to E-Petition No. 3925-23 titled 'Control Electricity Prices', which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 12 September 2023. I thank the petitioners for their interest in this matter.

In south-east Queensland, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) sets the default market offer for electricity each year, which acts as a safety net for customers, and sets an opt-in price cap a retailer can charge a small customer on a standard retail contract in south-east Queensland. If petitioners in south-east Queensland are on a market offer with their current retailer and are unhappy with the terms of that offer, they can shop around, or request their retailer put them on the default market offer.

Prices in regional Queensland are regulated by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) each year and are adjusted to reflect the government's long-standing uniform tariff policy. This policy ensures small customers in regional Queensland pay similar prices compared to small customers in south-east Queensland regardless of where they live. To ensure regulated prices can be set below the cost of supply, the Queensland Government pays Energy Queensland Limited a Community Service Obligation, budgeted at \$541.2 million in 2023-24.

From 1 July 2023, the AER increased the default market offer by 21.5 per cent (\$349) for an average south-east Queensland household. QCA also increased electricity tariffs in regional Queensland as part of its annual regulatory determination, increasing the electricity bill for the typical household in regional Queensland by 28.7 per cent or \$429. Overall, the average bill for a typical household is similar in south-east and regional Queensland. These actions were driven by significant changes in the cost of energy last year, including the ongoing war in the Ukraine which drove up the price of commodities such as coal and gas in the global markets, affecting the cost of electricity generation across Australia. Other contributing factors included a range of generation plant outages across the country and unfavourable weather (e.g. flooding).

The Queensland Government understands the impact these rising prices have had on household budgets. The 2023-24 Queensland Government Cost of Living Rebate (CoLR) will be more than three times the size of last year's rebate, and, as such, eligible Queenslanders will have among the lowest effective power bills of any state.

Vulnerable households will receive a \$700 CoLR on their electricity bills in 2023-24, bringing total relief for those doing it toughest to \$1,072. All other households will receive a \$550 CoLR. For some households (e.g. Queensland Electricity Rebate recipients receiving the \$700 rebate), the CoLR will be partly funded by the Australian Government under the Energy Bill Relief Fund.

The Queensland Government remains committed to sustainable energy prices for Queenslanders. Further information about the CoLR and other support available can be found by visiting [www.queenslandsavers.qld.gov.au](http://www.queenslandsavers.qld.gov.au). AER's independent price comparator website at [www.energymadeeasy.gov.au](http://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au) can also be used to compare offers and to help determine the best electricity contract.

I hope this information answers your enquiry. If I can help with other matters within my portfolio, please contact my office on (07) 3719 7270.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mick de Brenni', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mick de Brenni MP  
**Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen**  
**Minister for Public Works and Procurement**