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Submission:

I wish to point out that the method by which the current standard rate is fixed (Energy Australia) is absolutely unfair. The rates are apparently fixed using some sort of average usage by residential customers. That method takes absolutely no consideration of the adverse position for individual customers. My wife & I are absolutely disadvantaged as follows:

1. We do not have the benefit of town gas availability, as do most customers in Sydney area. We rely on electricity for all our cooking & heating requirements, so we use more than the "average" household. Bottled gas is too costly for heating.
2. We are both retired, living on reduced income from investments, & hence spend most of our days at home. The area in which we live is colder in winter than most of Sydney, & it is essential to have heaters on for cold days, not to mention the cold nights. Please compare us to couples who live in home units & both go to work most days. They drag down the "average" use of electricity & we suffer from that lower average usage.
3. My wife regularly does washing for a couple of our children, which again adds to our usage.

In conclusion, we do not mind having to pay a reasonable amount for our electricity usage, but strongly object to the principals by which the rates have been set. I see absolutely no reason as to why the standard rate can not be a fixed rate for all & any usage. I submit that there is absolutely no other method by which all customers can be treated in a fair & proper manner. In fact, in a number of other areas, the greater the volume, the lesser the cost per item.

Why should we be penalised simply because we are old, are at home most days, need more heating, help out our children, AND DO NOT HAVE TOWN GAS AVAILABLE???