

The Residents Committee
Bellevue Gardens Retirement Village
Unit 52
Parker Street
PORT MACQUARIE 2444

17 March 2009

Review of Market Based Electricity Purchase Cost Allowance
IPART
P O Box Q290
Q V B Post Office
NSW 1230



To Whom It May Concern

As representatives of the 230 residents of Bellevue Gardens Retirement Village, the majority of whom are pensioners or part pensioners, we wish to express our absolute disbelief at the proposed increase of 18.5% in electricity costs effective from 1/7/09. Any increase is difficult enough, but to suggest an increase of this proportion is totally unacceptable, and we wish to note our strongest objection.

This comes at a time when many of our retirees are already experiencing financial difficulty and loss of income from investments and superannuation due to the economic recession, and resident levies are increasing to meet the escalating costs associated with the operation of the Village. The proposed increase will not only affect residents' personal usage, but the cost of electricity supply to common facilities within the Village would also impact on resident levies.

The supply of electricity is obviously essential to the day to day living of all residents, so they have no choice but to pay whatever charge is imposed upon them. For many, this will mean going without other items important to their health and wellbeing, and this is a very real concern.

We request that you will consider our strong objection to this proposed increase and that the decision can be reversed in the best interests of all retirees.

Yours faithfully

Ernie Leonard
Chairman

Charles McLauchlan
Secretary

c.c: Country Energy, Port Macquarie.