

In Reply Please
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3 April 2009

Dr Michael Keating
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

Dear Dr Keating

Council at its meeting held on Tuesday, 24 March 2009, discussed the draft determination by the Independent Pricing Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and the proposed retail and wholesale price increases for electricity in New South Wales.

On behalf of the residents of Eurobodalla Shire, I would urge that the IPART reconsider the proposed retail electricity price increase recommended. During these difficult economic times there are many households in Eurobodalla that will simply not be able to sustain any increase in the cost of this essential service.

The added financial burden alone on the 22% of the total population of the Eurobodalla Shire aged over 65, many of whom depend upon social security payments as their only source of income, will be devastating. The 10% of the population who provide unpaid care for people who are disabled and or suffer from long term illnesses will also be impacted by the proposed increase.

Unemployment rates in the Eurobodalla are consistently above the State average with the latest figures just released showing an increase from 6% to 6.8% compared to NSW average at 4.8% and the national average at 4.2%.

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage SEIFA has Eurobodalla with a lower score than most of its neighbouring shires which indicates the area has many low income families and people with little training and in unskilled occupations. With many of our taxpayers on fixed incomes, any increase in essential services costs such as electricity would be a substantial setback.

I trust that you will consider the financial situation of Eurobodalla residents, together with those residents across the State, who are in no position to absorb this considerable increase in charges for an essential service.

Yours faithfully

PAUL J ANDERSON
GENERAL MANAGER



EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

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