

Representatives of the Sutherland group of Older Women's Network NSW Inc. wish to strongly protest against any further increase to the retail price for electricity to the consumer. Any further deregulation in the market for this basic public utility can only result in greater hardship for those older women struggling to exist on the minimum income of Aged Pension.

Older Women's Network expressed a similar view when consumers were promised lower prices resulting from the introduction of Competition Policy in 1999.

As prices have continued to rise since then how are we to expect better outcomes from further entry into the marketing of this essential service by yet more profit hungry retailers?

Sincerely,

Mrs Barbara Burnham

for and on behalf of Older Women's Network NSW Sutherland Group.