

Country Energy is our local supplier of electricity and despite all the last 4 price increases over the last 4 years, the infrastructure programs it was supposed to put into place to improve services has not materialised.

My locality STILL suffers from clear weather low peak blackouts due to a dismal rate of preventative maintenance programs and basically bad engineering practises by worlds best practices.

This price rise cannot be justified on the basis that it is to be used to upgrade services as the past 4 increases have done exactly nothing to move in that direction.

If they want to save money, ALL power companies could start by removing discount energy pricing from all staff members or trade it off in their salary package only after 12 months service. At the moment they extend it to anyone who works for their company and even subcontractors after a 12 month period.

An immediate savings equivalent to the recommended price rise would occur and be on going, allowing for the energy companies to employ more staff, increase productivity, especially in maintenance and then expansion into ancillary services aligned with power services.

I believe the current discount rate for employees is between 8-10%, more for the executive staff. Kill that and there would be no need for a consumer price rise that cannot be afforded by the greater majority of the public at this point in time. If you think that the public can, you are living in a "fish-bowl" insulated from real life and completely out of touch.

If the executives took a salary sacrifice to retain their electricity discount at the current pricing then there again would be no need for a consumer price rise.

*Regards,*