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**Sent:** Friday, 13 March 2009 4:34 PM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Review of market based electricity

Sir,

I read in the papers today that electricity prices are set to rise by 18.5% in NSW. HORROR !  
I am not sure of the justification that comes with an 18.5% price hike of an essential service, however the need for more money no doubt has something to do with it. But rather than slugging the aged, poor and generally already worn out residents of this great state, perhaps a large part of the required money could come from within the electricity suppliers bloated budgets.

I live in a large country town, one of the headquarters of Country Energy and see every day their staff activities.

I believe that HUGE savings could be made by Country Energy attempting cost reductions rather than continuing to only look for extra revenue.

It appears that everyone in the organisation has a vehicle, has full weekend access to it on company paid petrol for family visits to the beach ( I have heard that even the Tea Lady has a car ). Plus all wages appear to be extremely high compared to what other workers in the area receive, and it all just appears too "bloated". Perhaps a streamlined organisation might not require the huge price increase that is proposed. Most other non monopoly organisations are looking to cut cost and streamline down.

It just seems so out of context with the reality of the NSW economy and the hardship that they feel in this recession/depression.