

16 March 2009

To Whom It May Concern  
IPART

RE: PROPOSED ENERGY TARIFF HIKE – ENERGY AUSTRALIA.

I again write with dismay to the IPART Tribunal regarding the reported 21.5% energy tariff hike in favour of Energy Australia. In the current economic climate with small business struggling with higher costs, sluggish payers and lower or non-existent profits I find it appalling that you intend to increase energy tariffs without any regard to the tax payer.

I concede that we have recently benefited from RBA rate deductions however does that give you the right to award the government yet another way to take it back to their fully fleshed bosom. I am aware that the government will shortly be losing billions of dollars in tax revenue due to small business closure and higher unemployment figures but if this rate increase goes ahead you are effectively telling small business to shut their doors and go on the dole so that they may at least get 3 months of ease to enjoy the fruits of 30 odd years of their labours before the debt collectors move in, rather than working harder and longer and still awaiting the wolves at their front doors. Why not have a holiday while we lose everything we've worked so hard for!

On the personal front, as a home owner I spent the last 12 months juggling a rather frayed shoe-string to keep up payments on the house front, exorbitant train fees (which you also deemed totally necessary) and all the other statutory and fundamental bills that you call living. Finally, we get some relief but your organisation, in your wisdom, believe that we haven't suffered enough and there is yet another drop that can be squeezed from the proverbial stone.

If you wish to force us to alternative fuels so be it! I for one will be picking up a couple of oil fuelled hurricane lanterns at the nearest thrift shop and buying some candles to light my home.

I seriously urge you to reconsider this truly crippling increase which will impact detrimentally on small business (increasing unemployment), elderly pensioners (already stretched thin on their measly government allowance), and home owners which have worn the brunt of the rate rises for over 12 months and are only just allowing themselves the luxury of more than tuna and baked beans in their weekly shop.

On logging onto your website I also note that there is a water tariff charge increase submission for Wyong and Gosford. This was kept hush hush and is the first I've heard about it – so I guess we're going to be doubly slugged – thank you IPART (yes that was sarcasm).

Grow a heart and stop this ever increasing debt burden on the few who still have jobs and small sized businesses or face the consequences of more people claiming the dole, leaving bad debts and filing for bankruptcy. Your call, but IPART cannot

conscionably agree to the ever increasing government rate increase proposals that keep taking food off our tables and clothes off our back and expect us to smile while they proctologically examine our every orifice for hidden gemstones to increase the government coffers.

Cmon IPART give the Australian public a better go!