

Attention
The Chairman
IPART
PO Box Q290
QVB NSW 1230

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am angry. Very Angry. Your authority IPART is responsible for approving applications by State Water and Electrical bodies to raise their prices by huge amounts???

Last year I made spoke with a consultant at IPART following a substantial increase in electricity charges including serviceability fee following approval by IPART for Country Energy to increase their prices and was met with a rather arrogant response. This response informed me that this organisation needed to have a price increase approved in order to maintain pace with inflation and increased charges in maintaining infrastructure. More recently a substantial hike in water accounts resulted- increase if some 60%. Now, it has been released that there will be an even higher increase in electricity charges by some \$600 per household per year. While a rebate is muted as a sweetener, it is insignificant and does nothing in the way of improving the affordability of utility charges for us, the average householder. While large companies continue to avail themselves of services for a minimal amount or for free, we the householder are being subjected to greater price increases. In other words we are being ripped off and you are playing GOD with people's lives in allowing this to happen. We are fed up with this arrogant and blatant disregard by NSW bureaucrats and Government and their lack of understanding of our situation and needs. Recently our quarterly water and electricity accounts topped \$ 800 having increased by 60%- despite having implemented measures to reduce consumption and adopt a conservative approach.

While the majority of residents in Sydney may be relatively well off- with a dominance of the latte and chardonnay set with their leased BMWs and apartments upon which a perception of lifestyle of all appears to be based, some other city dwellers and we in rural areas are not!

If, as it is alleged , increases are needed to facilitate maintenance of infrastructure, then what have Governments been doing over the past twenty years with funds, the allocation of which should ensure maintenance and renewal of basic and essential infrastructure for ALL of NSW?

The proposed carbon emissions program at federal level to enable reduction and associated costs should NOT fall on the shoulders of the householder in the way of continued increase price hikes and gouging, nor should contributing to profits to company to ensure Growth is maintained to enable money on the pockets of wealthy Shareholders. We do not want to pay for their luxurious lifestyles or retirements.

We, the rural citizens of NSW are finding it increasingly more stressful in meeting financial obligations re paying utility accounts. At the moment it is something over which it appears we have little control other than at the ballot box.

We are sick and tired of being told we need to be more aware of conservation, such as smaller houses that use less power and to implement strategies to lower our bills such as turning lights off, taking shorter showers and letting our gardens die to conserve while industry and big business such as mining continues to have carte blanche and our lives determined by others such as regulatory bodies, banks, developers and government bodies. We are sick and tired of the continued push for privatisation and profiteering by big business (usually foreign)and rewarding of their CEOs with huge and obscene salaries for which we are paying at the expense of small business and Australian owned enterprises.

We are sick and tired of paying through the nose for big business and industry and having our savings eroded as the gap between income and expenditure narrows significantly.

We are sick and tired of the lack of attention to issues cares and “ I’m all right Jack” attitude .

We are sick and tired of state water and electrical bodies being given the approval to raise costs by huge amounts not at all in keeping with Consumer Price Index and inflation

We are sick and tired of money being spent on infrastructure in Sydney Newcastle and Wollongong and paying for it while very little is invested west of the Great Divide. We are sick and tired of price gouging- when we are informed that a price increase in electricity is to improve the rural infrastructure and car registration levy to improve Sydney transport systems when we don’t have one!

We are sick and tired of regulatory bodies such as RTA and IPART imposing unrealistic costs upon us as householders

We are sick and tired of paying the same high fuel prices when the price per barrel more than halved many months ago and being lied to by the oil companies.

We are sick and tired of State assets being sold off and householders paying the price.

We are sick and tired of being ripped off and our quality of life as Australian citizens diminishing.

We are sick and tired of NOT BEING HEARD.

Something needs to be done to restore costs to a respectable level, to improve quality of life, and not merely by paying lip service. We want action and we want to see it NOW !
Thanks for considering these issues.

Yours sincerely

Glen Waring