

# MEDIA RELEASE

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DATE

## Newman Government's Electricity Rebates Just Won't Cut It!

The Services Union has condemned the Newman LNP Government's claim that a rebate of one hundred and ten dollars per household for the next five years will cover the cost of electricity price rises after privatisation.

The Services Union will be coming to Rockhampton this week with the Not 4 Sale campaign to speak to locals about what privatisation will mean for the local community.

"Since the Newman Government was elected electricity prices have increased by 36.6%, or \$560 per household. The commitment of \$110 per household over the next five years does not even cover that, let alone future increases after the network is privatised," Services Union Secretary Neil Henderson said.

"Privatisation by lease only means more price increases. South Australia, which privatised their electricity network by lease fifteen years ago, has seen outrageous price hikes. They are now the third most expensive place in the world for electricity," Mr Henderson said.

Local pensioner David Thomas said he is concerned about the LNP's privatisation policy affecting the cost of living, and the proposed rebate does not go far enough.

"It's hard enough now to make ends meet on a pension. My wife and I are more financially secure than many of our friends; I know they are under pressure and any increase in cost of living could push them over the edge," Mr Thomas said.

"Earlier in the year the government tried to take away pensioners' concessions for electricity and water bills. Now they're attacking pensioners again, introducing a policy they know will push up the cost of living for people who can't afford to pay more and an extra one hundred and ten dollars a year won't go very far."

"There is already an increasing number of people having their electricity disconnected because of high prices. This will skyrocket with any further increase and put additional pressure on families already doing it tough."

A community forum will be held Tuesday 14 October, 6pm at the Central Queensland Bid Leagues Club to discuss what privatisation means for the future of the Rockhampton community.

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