



**Dale Last MP**  
**Member for Burdekin**

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services  
Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs

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March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## **Media Release – Still no electricity equality**

Despite a predicted reduction in electricity costs, Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs, Dale Last, has revealed that families in regional Queensland will still pay a 17.5% premium for electricity compared to their city cousins.

The Queensland Competition Authority's (QCA) Draft Determination on Regulated Retail Electricity Prices will see a *typical customer* save \$119 per year but Mr Last said the reduction still leaves a massive gap between prices in regional Queensland compared to South East Queensland.

"On Thursday in Parliament the Premier spoke glowingly about the price reduction for electricity but she failed to mention the disparity in prices depending on where you live," Mr Last said.

"The saving that the QCA has recommended equates to 32 cents per day. The premium that regional Queenslanders pay is, effectively, 60 cents per day."

Mr Last said that competition for consumers was, again, the key to reducing costs to families in the South East and that profits paid to the government from Energy Queensland would leave regional Queenslanders questioning the Labor government's intentions.

"At any time, a family in South East Queensland can make a few phone calls and save up to \$433 per year on their electricity costs," Mr Last said. "Meanwhile, in regional Queensland, we have one option, and that option contributes almost \$1.78 Million per day\* to the government coffers."

"Small businesses in Queensland are typically paying just over 16% more than they could in the South East so people who live in regional Queensland are getting stung twice."

"The Bureau of Statistics says that over 7,200 people moved to Queensland from other states in the September quarter of 2020 alone. Those figures show a great opportunity to bolster communities throughout regional Queensland but, while we are paying a premium for electricity in the regions, you couldn't blame them for abandoning the regions and staying in the South East."

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\* based on dividends paid to Queensland government in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years