



**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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**Media Release – Power prices to hike in the regions**

Households, small businesses and large businesses are all facing electricity price hikes come July 1<sup>st</sup> and Shadow Minister for Rural & Regional Affairs, Dale Last MP, is calling on the Labor state government to step in and ensure what he calls ‘price discrimination’ does not worsen.

The draft report on electricity prices in regional Queensland shows that all major tariffs will increase in price with the increases predicted to be between 4.2% and 13.6% or almost 4 times the rate of inflation.

“In December, households and small businesses in the South East of the state were told their power bills had fallen, partly due to an increase in the number of retailers they could choose from,” Mr Last said.

“In regional Queensland where we don’t have the choice of retailers, we are being told to brace for increases across the board just 3 months later.”

“The projections of the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) shows that the increases will wipe out the \$50 so-called dividend that Labor has used to try and keep regional Queenslanders on side.”

Mr Last said a hit to the household budget meant less income for small businesses in regional Queensland who were also facing an increase in their expenses.

“If the projected prices are implemented there is a double-whammy for small business in regional Queensland,” he said. “And in more bad news, any large business customers are facing a minimum increase of just under 10%.”

“There is little chance of businesses in regional Queensland thriving and employing more people when they are facing increases in their electricity bills ranging to nearly \$43,000 per annum. In fact, increases that large can lead to reductions in staff or even business closures.”

“Minister DeBrenni needs to guarantee that these horrendous increases will not be implemented and there is no reason why he can’t do that. When the QCA recommended retailer choice for regional Queensland the Labor government rejected that recommendation so there is no reason they can’t reject this recommendation and give regional Queensland a fair go.”

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Sources – Page 9, 10 & 11 - <https://www.qca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/draft-determination-main-report.pdf>