



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 – Small business slammed on power

While small businesses in regional Queensland already pay as much as 25% more for electricity than businesses in South East Queensland, Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs, Dale Last MP, fears worse it still to come.

The latest determination by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) shows the average small business in regional areas will see a saving of 3.7% to 3.8% on their electricity bill from July 1 but it is the *'devil in the detail'* that has Mr Last worried.

“Businesses will welcome any reduction in their costs but the disparity between regional Queensland and the South East continues to grow,” Mr Last said. “After the reductions that come into effect on July 1, businesses in rural Queensland will pay up to 25% more for power than their SEQ counterparts did in July 2020.”

“When you see the QCA referring to lower wholesale energy costs you know that those savings will be passed on far quicker in South East Queensland than they will in the regions. That is simply due to market forces.”

Mr Last said that the difference in prices would mean higher costs for families who are already paying almost 23% more for electricity than similar households in the South East.

“While energy costs in the regions are set by regulation and not competition, any reductions in wholesale prices, or other costs, will only be passed on yearly,” Mr Last said. “That means that we could be paying far higher prices than we need to for up to 12 months.”

“Even if families or businesses install solar to try and save they are getting less than people in the South East. The feed-in tariff in regional Queensland will reduce by over 16% on July 1, widening the gap between what we receive and what is paid to consumers in SEQ who benefit from competition.”

“It’s all well and good to talk about reducing prices in the regions but, when your energy provider is owned by the state government and still charges more than the open market, it highlights the raw deal that small business and families in regional Queensland are getting on electricity costs.”



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