

Submission to the AEMC regarding proposed changes to electricity pricing system.

As age pensioners, we are frugal with our usage and to ensure that we manage our budget more efficiently, in the past year we have installed additional solar panels and solar storage batteries.

As well as wanting to keep our power spending down, we also expect that as a society we become responsible with utility usage and be environmentally conscious of everything we do and use.

I say that not as an 'airy fairy greenie' but as someone who is genuinely responsible for our impact on the environment.

However, the over-riding purpose of installing the solar panels and batteries is to keep our economic security over our sunset years. We were encouraged to do this through government subsidies which made the capital investment viable.

It is also our way of making a contribution to powering society and while recognising that we are paid a 'pittance' for the power our system provides to the network, the power companies make a tidy margin selling it back to other consumers.

Your proposal to effectively punish responsible members of society such as ourselves, is reprehensible and totally against commonsense and common decency.

If we choose to be economic with our usage, (or choose to provide our own power through solar and batteries) then our costs should reflect that. Anyone at the other end of the scale who choose to use as much as they wish, and draw primarily from the grid should pay the price of that.

It should be a case of user pays.

The concept of charging us for the excessive usage of others is immoral.

While we fully appreciate the need to recover costs of supplying power to a modern society, this should be balanced by ability to pay.

It should also reflect the contribution individual homes make to supplying power to the grid.

I will not get into the argument of greed being driven by the power retailers, but there is an underlying disquiet in society about offshore interests profiting off the backs of Australian families. The belief that the shareholders of your distribution networks are putting the welfare of Australian pensioners at risk is a serious worry and to manipulate the charging system to penalise the lower income sectors of society is immoral.

Finally, the essence of our submission is:

- We are totally opposed to any changes to the power charging system where supply charges are raised to cover the drop in actual volume purchased by consumers.
- We strongly object to any increase in line charges as it will only hurt consumers such as ourselves on restricted incomes.
- If there are to be any changes to power charges, they should be applied to volume usage not connections.

If there is the opportunity, I would like to speak to my submission at any public hearing.

Yours sincerely

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