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12 Feb 2026

Dear AEMC

I believe in looking at review of electricity prices we should look back at say 1979. In Sydney there were as an example the St George, Sydney and Mackellar County Councils etc. Power was generated by the Electricity commission. All were state owned assets. Electricity was sold on a per kWh basis with no daily connection fees.

The NSW government first amalgamated many of the County Councils and then privatised of both the generation and supply of electricity. All of these consumers were told would lead to greater competition and lower prices.

FURTHER A fixed daily supply charge was introduced to cover

- Infrastructure Maintenance: It covers the cost of operating, maintaining, and upgrading the "poles and wires" that deliver electricity to your property.
- Grid Access: It pays for the service of keeping your property connected to the regional electricity network.
- Metering Costs: It covers the cost of reading your meter and managing electricity usage data.
- Administration & Billing: It covers the customer service costs associated with managing your account, such as issuing bills.

It should be noted specifically that the fixed daily supply charge covers the "Infrastructure Maintenance" cost thus regardless of how much or how little electricity is used by a consumer the fact that they are connected to the electricity grid these costs are covered.

With privatisation the number of potential suppliers has escalated. The daily supply charge also covers "Administration & Billing". Given the number of suppliers this component could be

significantly reduced if the number of suppliers was reduced as there is significant redundancy in all of them doing the same thing, but independently.

In summary it does not matter if a household has solar and/ or a battery as the daily supply charge already covers the fixed costs of the network and does not need to be increased by more than CPI. The daily supply charge can reduced however by removing redundancy in the billing and administration components of multiple suppliers.

Regards

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