



Greg Piper MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

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Electricity Increases to Pay for Labor Re-Election

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, has warned that the current round of price gouging has much to do with selling the state's electricity industry to pay for a pre-election spending spree.

"The higher costs to consumers will be turned into profit for private operators and provide the Government cash for spending splurge in key electorates prior to the election in 2011" Mr Piper said.

"I warned in September and December last year that these price rises would be a rip-off," Mr Piper said. "The cost of producing electricity actually reduced 6.7% in 2009¹, so an increase of over 60% just can't be justified."

"It's a cynical move for the Government to start charging for the Federal Government's emission trading scheme when it hasn't been introduced and is looking increasingly unlikely," Mr Piper added. "Will the extra money collected from consumers go to the buyers of the electricity systems or to an unofficial Government re-election campaign?"

"Families who struggle with food and power bills this winter will have good reason to complain."

1 Auditor General's report to Parliament (2009) Vol3 p6