



# **Greg Piper MP**

## **Member for Lake Macquarie**



### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **Greg Piper Warns of Privatised Power Prices**

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, says that on top of July's 14% increase for domestic electricity, Energy Australia proposes a 24% increase for 2011, followed by 10%, 12% and 10% from 2012 to 2014.

"These proposed increases appear not to follow any anticipated increases in the cost of producing the state's electricity, but they would certainly make electricity retailers an attractive purchase," Mr Piper said.

"It has been reported today that Energy Australia will be sold to the highest bidder," Mr Piper said. "These huge increases will be a gift to the new owners and the proceeds of the sale would be a one-off bonus for a cash-strapped Government."

"Bolstering the profitability of retailers like this cannot be in best long term interest of customers," Mr Piper added. "A cynic might suggest the proceeds of the sale will effectively fund the Government's 'war-chest' for the next election."

"People are concerned about privatisation increasing electricity prices and this looks like what's happening," Mr Piper said. "I think that the Government is treating people with contempt by privatising retailers without even referring it to Parliament."