



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

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PETITION OPPOSES ELECTRICITY PRICE RISES

Greg Piper MP has launched a petition for residents of the state electorate of Lake Macquarie to seek fairer electricity prices.

Mr Piper said the petition expresses community concern regarding the ruling of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for customers to pay up to 42% more for their electricity by 2013.

"I am concerned that the increases will have a negative impact on families and small business," Mr Piper said. "There will also be consequences for those in low-income households, particularly pensioners, who will need spend more on electricity and less on caring for themselves."

According to Mr Piper, the cost of producing the State's electricity had actually reduced by 6.7% in 2009.

"The price rise would increase the value of the state's electricity industry and help the Government sell it off, but it's bad deal for consumers and it can't be justified," he added.

The petition calls on the NSW Government to reject IPART's price rises and fund any new infrastructure through capital borrowings paid for by electricity dividends, or in the event of a retail sell-off, through the proceeds of those sales.

The petition can be downloaded from Mr Piper's website www.gregpiper1.com and is available from his office by phoning 4959 3200.

Completed petitions should be returned to Mr Piper's office by Monday 31 May so they can be presented to Parliament.