

## HOW'S YOUR LIGHT BILL? STATE UTILITIES: 1997 REVISETED

State utilities were created and intended to provide a service and compliment towards the betterment of society. The very conception of a public utility is that it is not there to make a profit for a few; it is there to provide an essential service to the multitude. It was conceived for the people by the people, as all other means either did not exist or could not be entrusted to provide a fair and equitable service to all. (As in our constitution.)

Our utilities are suppose to be service-oriented and maintained on behalf of the community. How then will privatisation create cheaper electricity for a company that will need to make profit for its shareholders while charging less for their product as currently being charged by a supposedly self-sustaining utility that's in bad need of an overhaul? **The price will go up! It will leave the reach of individuals and families to be able to afford. Charities shall become further swamped by the desperate.** The current failings and those to come are not the fault of the power service being a public utility. The blame lies solely at the feet of a Government which has contemptuously and deliberately allowed the utility to become inadequately maintained nor given the ability to keep pace with population growth, as it is with other utilities such as rail, hospitals, roads, water, post, etc, etc, that are being corporatised on their way to full privatisation.

**The people of NSW are not awake, nor understand and comprehend.** The introduction of an extra bill each year to camouflage the inflated costs went unchallenged. (You may remember that you were once only billed 3 times a year for your electricity, now you are being billed 4 times a year). **The Liberals' solution to NSW disastrously dilapidated state will be to privatise all our essential services.** This is of course the intension of Labor all along. The Liberals will openly condemn Labor for NSW misery, but will still preference Labor ahead of One Nation. (The only Party committed to exposing and reversing their deceit.) Before and from 1997 no one wanted to know. Now, everybody affected is complaining.

You have probably noticed the price of your electricity continues to rise without any respite in the foreseeable future. You may also have noticed (if your one of the many unlucky ones), that your usage has also increased despite your best efforts. If your oven seems to take unusually long to cook in, if your lights dim when other appliances kick in, then you may be being ripped off by your electricity provider and state government.

Because no new plants have been constructed to cope with increased demand, because service and replacement of current infrastructure has not been made, your household may not be receiving the full 240 Volts. What does this mean? Well essentially it means a higher electricity bill for you, as your appliances, air con, oven etc are using more electricity to try and perform the same job as they were designed to do operating at a full 240 Volts. You can have your power tested, but you will also have to pay to have this done by your provider. So much for ensuring you a guaranteed supply and service.

The Global warming fiasco has been a convenience for the State Labour government. It has enabled them to do nothing to rectify the situation and has given them an excuse to increase price, both directly and covertly. No, they are not interested in upholding their responsibility to their electors, and after the result of the last state election, why should they? You will just have to put up with it, until the day that the people of NSW wake up, get up off their bloated apathetic behinds and start to become politically active.

I use to believe that when crime became rampant, when costs skyrocketed, when the people of NSW started hurting enough and could no longer turn their backs on the collapse of their health system and the collapse of the rest of their public utilities, that they would rise up and demand an end to this madness. But alas, it has not happened. Not until the day it comes back to bite them. For example, as long as people are happy to buy a raffle ticket so essential equipment for the children's hospital may be obtained, instead of insisting government uphold its responsibility, then nothing will change.

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