

John Robertson MP

NSW Opposition Leader



24 November, 2011

O'FARRELL SELLS OUT ON NSW

PRIVATISATION WILL INCREASE ELECTRICITY BILLS BY 30 PER CENT

DISCONNECTIONS WILL RISE

Barry O'Farrell's power sell off is likely to cost an average NSW household \$563.70 per annum, with electricity prices set to soar by more than 30 per cent, said Opposition Leader John Robertson today.

"Today's announcement represents an enormous breach of faith with the people of NSW, who placed their trust in Barry O'Farrell," said Mr Robertson.

"Barry O'Farrell is set to slug households more than \$550 a year on their electricity bills – an increase many families will be unable to afford.

"The Premier needs to stop and think about the human cost of his power privatisation plans.

"The Energy and Water Ombudsman revealed last week that there has been an 18 per cent increase in complaints from households who have been disconnected due to financial hardship.

"These disconnections will continue to rise if the Premier proceeds with his plans to privatise the state's power stations and put upward pressure on prices."

Premier Barry O'Farrell told workers in Lithgow on January 28, 2011:

"We have absolutely no plans to privatise either the generators or the poles and wires."

- Barry O'Farrell, Lithgow Mercury, January 2011

"The Premier misled voters before the election and has no mandate for electricity privatisation," said Mr Robertson.

"The people of NSW didn't vote for Barry O'Farrell so that he would increase their electricity prices and privatise power stations.

"Thousands of workers have an axe hanging over their head tonight as a result of the Premier's decision to sell off their industry.

"I implore Liberal and National MPs who oppose power privatisation to speak up and speak out on behalf of their communities."

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BARRY'S BROKEN PROMISE AND HOW IT WILL HURT YOU

Energy price impacts by electricity provider:

| Energy provider | Average household bill pre July 1, 2011 | Increase under Barry O'Farrell from July 1, 2011 | Increase under Barry O'Farrell from July 1, 2012 | Further 30 per cent increase under privatisation |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Essential Energy | \$1,747 | 18.1 per cent \$316 IPART + \$12 Climate Change Fund (CCF) (New total: \$2075) | 9.5 per cent \$197 (IPART) + \$12 CCF (New total: \$2284) | \$685 per annum (New total: \$2969) |
| AusGrid | \$1,283 | 17.9 per cent \$230 + \$12 CCF (New total: \$1525) | 10 per cent or \$153 + \$12 CCF (New total: \$1690) | \$507 per annum (New total: \$2197) |
| Endeavour Energy | \$1,391 | 15.5 per cent \$216 + \$12 CCF (New total: \$1619) | 2 per cent or \$32 + CCF \$12 (New total: \$1663) | \$499 per annum (New total: \$2162) |
| AVERAGE INCREASE UNDER PRIVATISATION: \$563.70 per annum | | | | |

O'FARRELL ON THE RECORD:

January 28, 2011 – O'Farrell makes solemn undertaking to the Lithgow Mercury not to privatise electricity:

"We have absolutely no plans to privatise either the generators or the poles and wires."

<http://www.lithgowmercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-plans-for-electricity-generators-privatisation/2060519.aspx>