



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT CONCERNED BY POWER PRICE INCREASE

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher today re-affirmed the NSW Government's commitment to minimising the impact of power price rises following the final release of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) report.

Mr Hartcher said the price rises, estimated to add \$230 to \$316 to the average household bill, would place further strain on family budgets across NSW.

"Much of these price rises are a result of Labor's mismanagement of the electricity sector. For the past 16 years, power price rises have been allowed to spiral out of control and will continue to do so if federal Labor introduces its prohibitive carbon tax," Mr Hartcher said.

"But we are doing everything we can to reduce the impact of these rises – including increasing financial assistance - and prevent such massive increases in the future."

The NSW Government has announced rebates of up to \$250 will be available to low income earners and will be phased in from July 1.

Mr Hartcher said the NSW Government has also sought compensation from the Federal Government to offset the rises caused by the Commonwealth's Renewable Energy Target and identified by IPART as one of the key reasons for the huge increase.

"It is unreasonable for the Federal Government to expect NSW households to bear the costs of unsustainable and costly green schemes."

Mr Hartcher said the review of the electricity licence conditions to halt any over-spending which may be forcing up power prices has the support of the national Ministerial Council on Energy.

"I have requested that a NSW-specific review of reliability standards be undertaken by the Australian Energy Market Commission as soon as possible and in advance of a national review," Mr Hartcher said.

"Any expenditure over and above what has been approved by IPART must immediately be brought under control."

The NSW Government has also implemented a freeze on dividends paid by network businesses where that would place additional pressure on prices and is currently reviewing all aspects of the former Labor government's bungled power sale in a Special Commission of Inquiry.

"The Liberal & Nationals Government recognises the burden increasing energy bills are placing on households and will continue to act in the best interests of all NSW households to reduce the potential for rises in the future and oppose any form of carbon tax," Mr Hartcher said.