



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 30 June 2011

HELPING HOUSEHOLDS CUT THEIR POWER BILLS

As part of the NSW Government's commitment to reducing the impact of rising power prices Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher today launched a new 'one-stop-shop' website with information and tips on reducing household and business power bills.

Mr Hartcher said the website - www.cutyourpowerbills.nsw.gov.au - was a valuable tool for households and businesses looking to save money and also provides information on how to access low income energy rebates.

"Power prices have been allowed to spiral out of control during the past 16 years of Labor Government, with rising power bills a real concern for many households across NSW.

"We are doing everything we can to reduce the impact of price rises and prevent massive increases in the future. This website is a valuable resource for helping households and businesses manage rising energy costs," Mr Hartcher said.

The website details a wide range of support available to help cut down bills and includes advice on choosing energy deals that best suit customers' needs; information on accessing financial support and rebates and links to energy saver websites.

"Often small changes can make a significant difference to households' power bills over a year," Mr Hartcher said.

"Whether it's shopping around for the most competitive energy deal or knowing what assistance is available, this website is a great tool and hub of information for households and businesses wanting to save money."

Mr Hartcher also said he would work collaboratively with electricity retailers to inform customers about assistance measures and build awareness about the cost contributors to electricity bill increases including funding of Commonwealth and former State government green energy schemes.

"The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal recently determined that the Federal Government's Renewable Energy Target was a key driver of power price rises.

"It is only fair that electricity customers know exactly where their money is going, especially as the Federal Government expects NSW households to bear the costs of unsustainable and costly green schemes.

"We recognise the burden increasing energy bills are placing on households and will continue working to prevent increases in the future," Mr Hartcher said.