



MEDIA RELEASE

COMMITTEE ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORY'S ENERGY FUTURE

25 August 2014

INQUIRY INTO ELECTRICITY PRICING OPTIONS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Committee on the Northern Territory's Energy Future is calling for submissions to its inquiry into Electricity Pricing Options.

"Over the past five years electricity prices in Australia have risen significantly, driven primarily by network upgrades required to meet peak demand and avoid blackouts." Mr Gary Higgins, MLA, Chair of the Committee said, "However, recent research suggests that \$7.8 billion of the \$17.6 billion invested in network upgrades across Australia between 2009 and 2013 could have been avoided, with the savings passed on to consumers as lower power bills, if electricity pricing structures had encouraged consumers to use less power in periods of peak demand."

"Managing consumption, encouraging energy efficiency, and ensuring our electricity supply industry has the capacity to adapt to changes in load profiles is an integral aspect of the Territory's on-going energy security. Access to reliable and affordable electricity is critical to the development of our economy and an issue of concern to all Territorians," Mr Higgins added. "This inquiry will consider the advantages and disadvantages of different types of electricity tariffs, and their applicability to the Northern Territory."

Industry representatives, members of the public and interested organisations are invited to make submissions, which are due by 17 October 2014. Terms of Reference and Submission Guidelines are available from www.nt.gov.au/lant or by contacting the Committee Office on (08) 8946 1485 or by email, contef@nt.gov.au.

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