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MEDIA RELEASE

Power savings for the South East... nothing for the regions!

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for North Queensland, Dale Last, has accused the State Government of hypocrisy following the announcement of cuts to electricity charges in South East Queensland by one major supplier.

Energy retailer, Origin Energy, has announced a 1.3% reduction in the base-tariff for households and a 4% reduction for businesses from July 1st and Mr Last predicts other suppliers will follow suit.

"The recent electricity price decrease by Origin is proof that when Queenslanders are given choice of providers competition in the market can lead to better prices," Mr Last said.

"Unfortunately, outside the South East corner, households and small businesses do not have a choice, in spite of the recommendation by the Productivity Commission to allow state-wide competition."

In 2106, the Labor Government received a recommendation from the Productivity Commission to allow retail competition in regional Queensland but, almost 2 years later, nothing has changed.

Mr Last believes the Palaszczuk Government should accept the recommendation, especially given it was the same government that implemented the inquiry.

"This is a government that regularly uses recommendations from inquiries to push through legislation," Mr Last said. "But here is one recommendation that would actually help regional Queensland and they do nothing for 2 years."

"When it comes to recommendations about deregulation in the South East corner, all of the recommendations were accepted."

"But the recommendations for regional Queensland have basically gone nowhere and it's not good enough."

Mr Last said the matter wasn't a political one and was about accepting the umpire's decision.

"The Queensland Competition Authority was appointed by the Premier to conduct the inquiry so the Premier should implement the recommendations without any further delay," Mr Last said.

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