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MEDIA RELEASE

Zap... there goes another promise!

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for North Queensland, Dale Last, has said retail competition across the state was the only way for regional Queenslanders to get a better deal on power.

The Queensland Competition Authority has announced pricing that should see households save \$20 a year from July 1st, but there is no relief in sight for farmers or irrigators.

"In the lead up to the last election, Labor promised to reduce electricity prices for rural and regional Queenslanders and now we know that that promise was another lie," Mr Last said.

"This is a government that says Renewable Energy will save us all and then goes and cuts the feed-in tariff for people with solar."

"Because there is no competition in regional areas, people installed solar to try and make some savings and now Labor is taking an axe to any savings."

Although wholesale energy and network costs have decreased, the costs of the Renewable Energy Target offset most of the reduction. Mr Last said each passing day saw the State Government abandon regional areas more and more while their pandering to green interests for political reasons increased.

"Primary Producers have had huge tracts of land rendered useless by this government and now the government offers them nothing to reduce the cost of irrigating their crops or watering their livestock just so they can score some preferences in Brisbane," Mr Last said.

"There are more than 10,000 customers on old tariffs that are facing uncertain times and the government has done nothing to address that either."

"With every day that goes by we see more and more than Labor thinks people in the regions and primary producers are second-class citizens who should be punished because they chose not to live in the South East corner."

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