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MEDIA RELEASE

Competition in regional electricity... at Last!

Electricity bills will be cut by up to \$300 in the Liberal National Party's plan to introduce competition to regional Queensland's energy market.

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Northern Queensland, Dale Last, said the initiative would end the Labor's electricity divide between the southeast and the rest of Queensland.

"Households in regional Queensland deserve affordable energy and competition in the electricity marketplace is the best way to drive down prices," Mr Last said.

"Southeast Queenslanders are spoilt for choice when it comes to their energy retailers and residents in the Burdekin electorate and throughout the State should be able to shop around as well."

Mr Last said the reforms would allow other energy retailers to compete against Ergon in accordance with recommendations from the Productivity Commission.

"Almost two years ago regional competition was recommended but the government has done nothing to implement it and continue to use electricity as a secret tax," he said.

Mr Last said giving regional Queenslanders the chance to shop around would save households around \$300 a year based on the experiences of households in the Southeast where they are saving \$350 to \$400 where competition is strong.

According to the Queensland Productivity Commission, this reform would deliver around \$303 million in benefits to regional customers over the initial five-year period due to price discounting and competition.

"We will introduce competition in electricity for regional Queensland because every Queenslanders deserves lower electricity prices," Mr Last said.

"Unlike the government, we have a plan to bring down power prices in regional Queensland."

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