

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Lauga hails reduction in power prices

Central Queensland electricity consumers could see their power bills drop by \$58, and small businesses by \$180 in 2019 - two years in a row of falling prices, the Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said today.

She cited the latest figures from a draft determination, tabled in Parliament today, by the independent Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) for 2019-20 which proposes a 4.1% decrease for residential customers (on tariff 11), and a 7.2% decrease for small businesses (on tariff 20).

This follows a 1.3 per cent reduction in regional power prices from 1 July 2018.

“This means cheaper power bills for Central Queensland families and small businesses.

“The QCA predicts that annual power bills for large businesses are expected to decrease by about 14.2 per cent.”

Mrs Lauga said there were two key points in the QCA draft report which predicted power prices were heading down again this year:

1. Regional electricity consumers could see their power bills drop again, for the second successive year; and

ELECTORATE OFFICE

Shop 3, Evia Building Normanby Street
Yeppoon QLD 4703

POSTAL ADDRESS

Post Office Box 1474
Yeppoon QLD 4703

CONTACT

Phone: (07) 4913 1500 Fax: (07) 4913 1509
Email: keppel@parliament.qld.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.brittanylauga.com.au

2. The draft determination forecasts a 4.1 per cent decrease for residential customers (on tariff 11), and a 7.2 per cent decrease for small businesses (on tariff 20).

“This is only possible because the Palaszczuk Government stopped the LNP selling our energy assets.

“By keeping our existing energy assets in public hands and supporting the growth in renewable generation, we are making power more affordable for consumers and investment more certain for business,” Mrs Lauga said.

“Our Government has an unwavering focus on continuing to push power prices lower for Queensland households and for Queensland businesses to support more jobs growth.”

Mrs Lauga said consumers had already enjoyed a credit of \$50 which was rolled out to Central Queensland household power bills last year - a key deliverable of the Palaszczuk Government’s \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan.

“We can return these dividends from these power businesses because they are owned by the people of Queensland,” she said.

“The \$50 dividend was applied automatically by all electricity retailers across Queensland for more than 1.9 million households in 2018, and will be applied again in 2019.”

She said the QCA will now run consultation workshops around the state in March and take submissions until 1 April before producing a final determination for government by 31 May.

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The QCA report says the decreases in prices are primarily due to a decline in forecast wholesale energy costs due to new renewable generation and the new government-owned generator, CleanCo, entering the National Energy Market (NEM).

Mrs Lauga said the Palaszczuk Labor Government is continuing to create a stable investment climate that's encouraging renewable energy investment.

Contact John 0400787037

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