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ELECTRICITY SUBMISSION

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This senate consideration is more critical to Govt Elections than yet realised. It is also the main public concern at present.

Power companies are out of control, The regulator has been gifting utilities unjustified price hikes. This can not be blamed on the States, due to the fact the regulator is federal.

How easy is it for the regulator to be corrupted by slings?

Power is an essential service, per the constitution they are not really to be privatised, and the essential services Act is mostly in waiting of war or natural disasters, but now can be ransomed.

The carbon tax does not stop excess usage, however I have the best and fairest strategy to cut users usages, the incentive to actually do such.
Also, pricing needs to be transparent

And, customers should not be paying for the utility assets or maintenance's when already doing so without them adding each new task to that.

We need to work out that the average service fee of \$50 per person when added up, far exceeds what the utilities actually spend on the matters we pay for, then add onto that \$50, new charges the regulator allowed them such as power pole replacement and smart meter charges, which currently breach the TPC Act, moreso charged twice for old and new and charged for something we have not had fitted yet, and no date set to stop making consumers pay for smart meters hoping people will forget. Furthermore, if consumers pay for utility assets then we should own it.

SOLVING EXCESSIVE POWER COSTS:

Currently there are no incentives to reduce usage, even the carbon tax fails this. What we need is a benchmark minimum usage price, lower than present prices, called **LOW USE CATEGORY**

Whereby EVERYONE has a free option to try fit that category via cutting usages, therefore anyone using in excess, pay the premium to do so.

This takes stress off struggling persons and the unemployed / pensioners, furthermore, it lets them retain the savings to more evenly spread/spend into the broad economy, as we must consider, that utilities are taking so much of peoples incomes that otherwise would have been spread over the broad economy on various other expenditures

NATIONAL GRID GIVES FEDERAL POWER

It was legislated in the late 90's for a national grid, I was a part of the submission process, however, discrimination occurred whereby only businesses got offered national grid but residential customers did not get such as promised.

To be frank, the national grid exists already but the regulator has somehow prevented it, possibly via State Govt interferences.

To open such competition will help consumers, and, collapse the rip-off companies, furthermore, if federal take over a national grid, as national becomes federal, then wrongful deals done by the States will then become invalid and break monopoly powers, whereby, States have agreed with utilities if consumers run them at a loss, Govt will make up the short fall, therefore, clearly to protect power companies from public boycott, this agreement also breaches the TPC Act.

Lets say, all consumers via publicity, decide to boycott TRU ENERGY, thus zero business and destined to go broke, thus consumers rights to ignore that company, the state governments in such situation guarantee TRU ENERGY its regular averaged profits. The taxpayer should not be funding this protectionism, either the utilities are private or not, but never to be Govt protected at taxpayers expense.

What I propose is the following:

- NO SUPPLY CHARGES FOR PERSONS WHOS BILL IS UNDER \$170 IN ACTUAL KWH USAGES PER BILL PERIOD
- A QUARTER PERCENT “TOTAL KWH” REDUCTION OFF TOTAL BILL FOR USERS WHOM USE UNDER \$150 WORTH OF KWH PER BILL
- A QUARTER PERCENT INCREASE FOR ALL USERS WITH BILLS OVER \$300 OR USAGES THEREABOUTS, AS THEY ARE USING THE SYSTEM AS A LUXURY RATHER THAN NECESSITY.
- LEGISLATION OF NATIONAL GRID WITH CONSUMERS ABLE TO CHOOSE EACH STATE AND FEDERAL GOVT CONTROL OF THIS
- NEW REGULATOR AS A PANEL OF 3 INCLUDING ONE LEGAL REP ONE FINANCIAL REP AND ONE LAYPERSON
- ENSURE UTILITIES FUND THEIR OWN ASSETS AND MAINTENENCES RATHER THAN ADD THEM TO CURRENT SUPPLY CHARGES TO CONFUSE BILLING AND GAIN FREE ASSETS, GIVING CLARITY TO CUSTOMERS BILLS.
- THE CURRENT ENERGY OMBUDSMAN HAS RARELY ACTED ON ANY COMPLAINTS EVEN ONES CLEARLY IN BREACH, THUS PROTECTING UTILITIES VIA SEEMINGLY STATE COERCION, AND VICTORIAN GOVT IS CONSIDERING REMOVING THE USELESS WATCHDOG GIVING NO CONSUMER PROTECTION AT ALL. WE NEED TO CREATE A NEW OMBUDSMAN UNDER FEDERAL MODEL AND ENSURE THEY HAVE THE POWERS AND STAFF
- WE MUST ENCOURAGE NEW UTILITY COMPANIES TO COMPETE WITH THE CURRENT ONES, AND REMOVE ANY CURRENT INCENTIVES THAT ALLOW THEM TO ALL COPY EACHOTHERS PRICINGS

Sincerely
BRIAN WOODS