

9(2)(a)

**From:** alexander mcfie 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 October 2018 1:22 p.m.  
**To:** Energy Markets  
**Subject:** power pricing  
  
**Importance:** High

Our Submission to this inquiry into power pricing

With regard to the government deregulation of the power industry. When this was put in place it was promised that this would benefit both competition and consumers alike

This has not occurred. Before deregulation my power was ten cents a unit now the cheapest I can obtain is thirty six cents a unit an increase of just under two hundred and seventy percent over this period. Inflation cannot be blamed for this situation as it has not increased to the above percentage that retailers prices have done. The only service they to seem provide is to get an invoice.

This is a gross exploitation of the situation that the retailers are in, causing the low economic populist to struggle through this basic necessity. This has been confirmed by the the Prime Minister in offering the winter heating allowance, to ensure the elderly can adequately warm their homes. This is only a band aid on problem itself and not the solution.

According to Top Energy pricing schedule, the price to the retailer plus gst per unit in my case is 22.5 the charge to me is about 36 cents a unit plus gst, a 71 % markup plus the gst paid by the retailer. can be claimed back by the retailer to add to their profit margin.

To this end, the margins seem to be widening and the services remain static, with no sign of relief for the consumer in the near future. We require an explanation for this anomaly. The retailers are reluctant to furnish us with any details, in fact they seem to be extremely secretive. We expect a positive benefit to come out of this inquiry

J. Alexander McFie .  
J. Harding.