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Sent: Sunday, 30 July 2017 1:08 PM
To: Retail Electricity Inquiry
Subject: electricity prices

Brenda Montgomery
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Electricity is now no longer considered an essential service.

It seems profit is now more important than people.

This hit me when South Australia blacked out last year. The gas power plant was not powered up because there was not enough profit in it.

And Gas. We have plenty of it. We don't need fracking.

Where is this gas going? Overseas. It's okay for the government to say they want to do something now. They must have known this would happen when the gas plant and pipelines were being built and the overseas contracts were being signed. They didn't care then. Profit over people.

The same with electricity. Its price has been rising rapidly for many years. Let's wring our hands now. It shouldn't have come to this.

The solution? Stop the latest price rise. Oh profits may drop. Oh dear. Limit price rises to cost of living. Invest more in renewables and battery storage.

New houses. Most these days, especially in country areas, have to have water tanks. As my brother said to me, why shouldn't all new houses have to have solar panels?

But, most of all, think of people. Plan far enough ahead that the basic needs of normal Australians are not sacrificed to greed.

Power is a RIGHT, not a privilege, for all Australians.

Brenda Montgomery.