

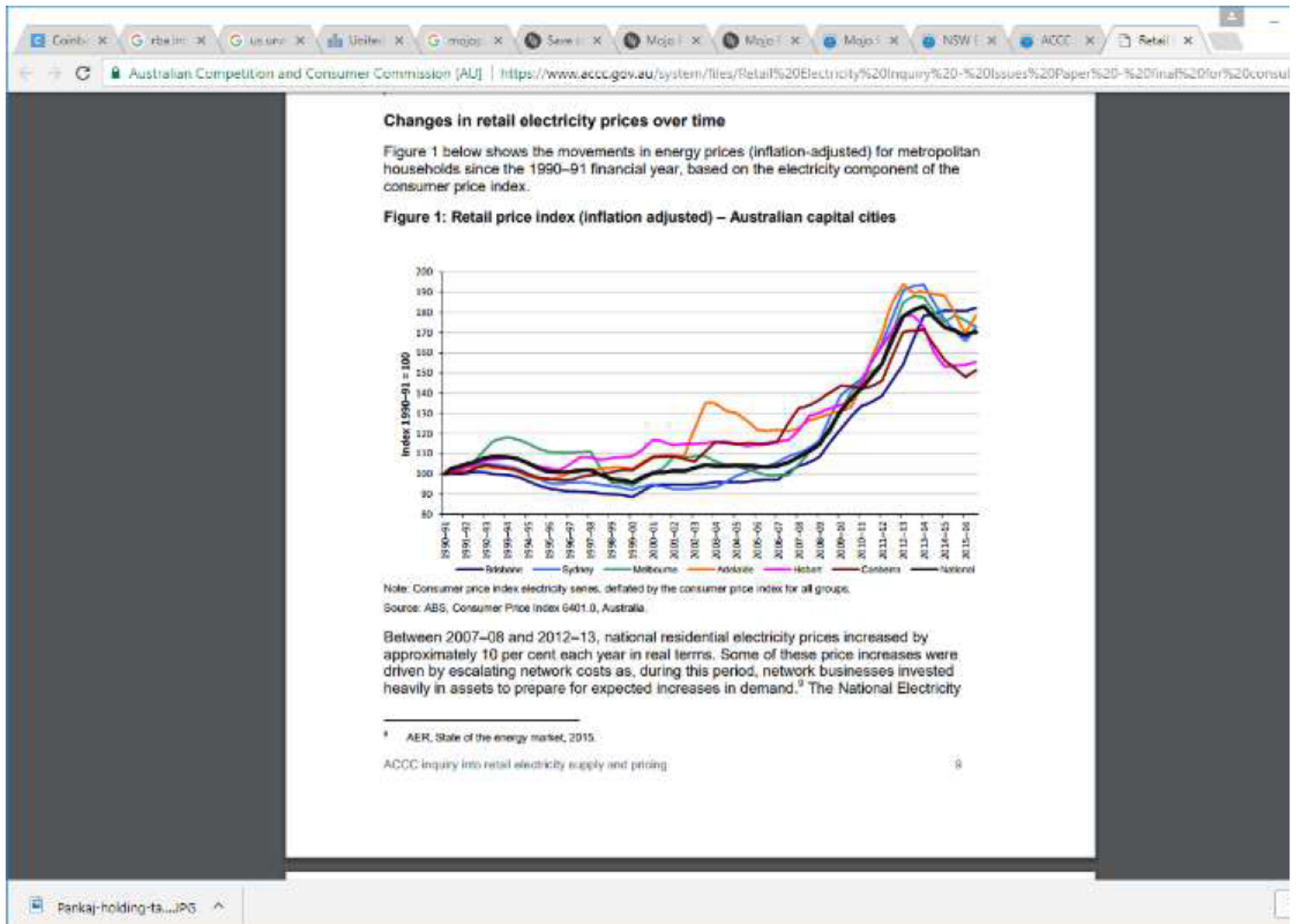
From: Pankaj Bharadia
Sent: Monday, 3 July 2017 6:29 PM
To: Retail Electricity Inquiry; Wong, Eva; Holland, Rebecca
Subject: TRIM: ACCC inquiry into retail electricity supply and pricing

HP TRIM Record Number: D17/90428

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to [your document](#)

If we review below graph, between (let call it Phase-1)1990-2006 there is very minor change in the retail electricity prices (With exception of Adelaide, but in next 10 years 2006-2016 (let us call Phase-2) very significant rise. My question is that when there is no special breakthrough in method of electricity generation or distribution between (Phase-1 or Phase-2), nor has common person's salary doubled during Phase-2, then why this heavy increase in electricity prices? ACCC really need to investigate and bring down people who are responsible for this scam of price increase.



At personal level:

Please consider, a consumer who spends several thousand dollars to install a solar panels on their roof, is worst off unless decides to invest few more thousand dollars to have battery storage.

I agreed there was incentive to receive 60cents per kW generated between 2007-2017, which now looks like a trap.

Current solar buyback is just 6cents, but electricity distributors have added a charge of 29 cents per day for smart meter handling.

Equation wise 6cents x 7 hours of full sunshine for solar generation (not considering rainy and cloudy days)= 42 cents out of which 29cents deducted as smart meter handling charge so net is 13 cents or solar sell price is less than 2 cents per kw for the solar customers.

This is a rip off by the system, no matter how it is justified.

It should be at par, if electricity is charged at 24 cents per watt then solar buyback should be also at same rate (not 6 cents, but full 24 cents) and there should not be any smart meter handling charges. Green energy generating Australian solar customer should be encouraged to install more panels on their roof by treating them at par.

The network distribution charge should not be applied to solar customers because most of the time that surplus is consumed by neighbours, the solar electricity does not have to travel far and incur losses.

Further Electric companies say that "smart meter handling charge" is to cover the cost of smart meter.

Two points here:

(1) It should be fixed charge, for example if smart meter cost is \$240, then Electric companies should charge \$10/month x 24 months and thats it, not ongoing 29cents/day for life of the customer.....!!!!

(2) By installing smart meter, Electric companies have reduced their man power and these saving should be passed on to customer. Before smart meter, somebody had to come to the house and read the meter, now this is not required, so definitely there is saving, plus they removed the old meter which they will sell that meter to third under developed nations, and recover costs.

If proper modelling is done on the actual costs, it would indicate that it is very hard for Electric companies to justify 29cent/day charge, so it should be eliminated.

I hope my views are considered during ACCC review, decision making as well as reporting.

Please feel free to contact me, if you need any further clarification or information. Thanks a lot

Regards,
Pankaj Bharadia

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