QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1205

asked on Tuesday, 15 September 2009

MR DICKSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY AND MINISTER FOR TRADE (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

What electricity charges were approved for the years 2004 to the present (broken down by year) and what electricity charges are projected for the years 2010 to 2014?

ANSWER:

With reference to Queensland's electricity charges I have been advised that for the years 2003-04 to 2009-10, the following tariff rates were approved:

Residential Regulated Retail Tariff (GST Exclusive)					
Year	First 100kWh per month (c/kWh)	Next 300 kWh per month (c/kWh)	Remaining kWh per month (c/kWh)	Minimum Payment (\$/month)	
2003-04	17.10	11.61	10.37	7.67	
2004-05	17.52	11.90	10.62	7.86	
2005-06	17.97	12.20	10.89	8.06	

Restructure of Residential Tariff Structure – 14 November 2005

Residential Regulated Retail Tariff (GST Exclusive)				
	All Consumption (c/kWh)	Service Fee (\$/month)		
2005-06	12.27	4.72		
2006-07	12.62	4.85		
2007-08	14.05	5.40		
2008-09	14.81	5.69		
2009-10	17.13	6.59		

The Government is unable to provide accurate information on what electricity charges are projected to be for the years 2010 to 2014. Electricity prices are determined independently by the State's independent economic regulator, the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA). The current review of Queensland's electricity pricing methodology and tariff structures may also result in the implementation of a new regulatory regime in this period. The QCA is not expected to release its Final Decision on electricity price increases for 2010-11 until May 2010.

In addition, the Australian Energy Regulator is not expected to release its final determination for the next five year regulatory period (2010 to 2015) until 30 April 2010, with annual increases to network tariffs normally released each May. Without this information, it is difficult to predict with any confidence the electricity prices for a period several years ahead.