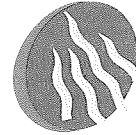




Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy and
Minister for Trade**

CLLO/09/0941

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 5 August 2009 concerning Petition No 1191-09 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly calling for a power subsidy scheme for Queenslanders with severe thermoregulatory dysfunction.

The Government understands the genuine needs of Queenslanders who suffer severe, chronic medical conditions and have thermoregulatory dysfunction (an inability of the body to control its own core temperature) as a complication.

I am aware that many people in this situation must rely on air-conditioning or heating as the most effective ways to keep the body temperature within a safe range.

I also acknowledge that many people with thermoregulatory dysfunction have low personal incomes and face significant health related expenses. These health expenses along with rising electricity prices can make it financially difficult for people with thermoregulatory dysfunction to afford their electricity bills.

My Department has been liaising with the Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) and MS Australia concerning possible guidelines for an electricity concession scheme covering people with this medical condition. I have also met with QCOSS regarding more general concession issues, and QCOSS has indicated it will be providing me with additional information about proposed concession changes including a new concession for people suffering from thermoregulatory dysfunction.

The Government recognises there is a group of people in the community who need additional support to ensure that they can keep cool to maintain their health and to maximise their ability to function on hot days and nights. However, further investigation is required to ensure any new concession proposal targets the right people, provides the correct level of support and is an efficient use of Government money.

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I will seriously consider the issue of a new electricity concession scheme for people suffering from thermoregulatory dysfunction, and will be giving community groups such as QCOS and MS Australia the opportunity to provide input into the development of such a proposal.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Mr Darren Schneider, Director, Industry and Policy will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 3237 1131.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Robertson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP