

Petition No. 4341-25

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 4341-25, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 10 February 2026. I thank the petitioners for their interest in electricity retailer choice and smart meters in regional Queensland.

The Queensland Government is committed to affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity, including in regional Queensland.

Since the introduction of full retail competition in 2007, customers connected to the national electricity grid can choose their electricity retailer. However, retail competition has historically been limited in regional Queensland, where many customers remain on regulated prices. This is largely due to the higher costs of supplying electricity across large distances.

The Queensland Competition Authority sets regulated prices for customers in regional Queensland consistent with the Queensland Government's uniform tariff policy (UTP).

The UTP is a long-standing commitment of the Queensland Government, designed to ensure that, wherever possible, customers of the same class pay no more for their electricity regardless of their geographic location. This means that residents and small businesses in regional and remote Queensland are able to access tariff structures comparable to those available in the south east.

Because the cost of supplying electricity in regional areas is significantly higher than in the south-east, the Queensland Government provides a substantial Community Service Obligation (CSO) payment each year to cover the difference between the actual cost of supply and the regulated prices paid by customers.

In setting regulated electricity prices for regional Queensland, the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) applies a well-established methodology and must have regard to the UTP. This ensures that regulated prices for regional customers reflect the cost of supply in south-east Queensland, thereby upholding the principle of uniformity across the state.

The Queensland Government remains committed to maintaining the UTP to promote fairness, affordability, and stability in electricity pricing for regional customers.

With reference to smart meters, following national reforms in December 2017, all new and replacement electricity meters installed are smart meters. Smart meters provide usage information digitally and remotely to electricity retailers. Should a customer wish to find out further information, they should contact their electricity retailer directly.

The Queensland Government encourages increased competition as it gives more choice to regional Queenslanders and potentially has long-term positive impacts on the affordability of electricity. Origin Energy announced in May 2025 that they would be increasing their retail presence in particular parts of regional Queensland, including Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton, and Bundaberg.

I thank the petitioners for taking the time to raise their concerns with the government, and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



DAVID JANETZKI MP
Treasurer
Minister for Energy
Minister for Home Ownership

12 / 03 / 2026