As a caterer our electricity is a major expense to our business. In the past 8 years electricity has risen far in excess of CPI and the continued yearly rate rises that are far in excess of CPI is leading to an exponentially rising situation. The proposed rate rise of between 9.3 and 13.6% will significantly affect the profitability of my business and the profitability of the FNQ region as a whole which is still struggling financially.