



## Frome Electorate Office

Geoff Brock MP, Member for Frome



### MEDIA RELEASE

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## Expand ESCOSA's Power in Price Monitoring

Prices of Electricity have increased substantially over the past few years, and is causing grave concerns not only to business operators, but more so to the general public.

The Government previously stated in December last year, that ESCOSA would be able to act as a "watchdog" and be able to monitor any increases.

From reports in the media recently it appears that the "watch dog" has requested further information be made available to them to enable them to monitor electricity retailers in the State.

Consumers rely on ESCOSA to regulate the energy market and without access to critical pricing information their job becomes very difficult to guard against anticompetitive behaviour.

As Mr Walsh, ESCOSA Chairman has stated "ESCOSA requires further information than currently available to them to carry out the tasks efficiently.

Mr Walsh, also stated ESCOSA cannot obtain the information needed from the National Regulatory Bodies" it is therefore imperative that the Government look closely at the restrictions they have placed on the Essential Services Commission of SA in obtaining pricing information they need and allow access beyond the current regulations to ensure they are useful, reliable and credible, without this how can they protect the consumer.

Minister Koutsantonis states that there has been a fall of 9 per cent in electricity prices and that ESCOSA's figures could not be relied upon. If this is correct it only serves to provide more ammunition to ESCOSA's argument, they need more access to pricing information.

Geoff requests that the Minister provide the required information requested by ESCOSA which will enable them to carry out their required duties.

Geoff also requests that the price of electricity be closely monitored with a view of reducing the cost to both business and also the general public.

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