

# Consumers Have Less Than 8 Weeks to Save Themselves Due to Government and Energy Industry Paralysis

Nearly 3 million Australian households are facing a massive price rise to their electricity bills in less than 8 weeks and most of them are asleep at the wheel when it comes to one of their largest household costs.

The failure of politicians to put in place an organised energy policy has led to a paralysed energy industry and a doubling of the wholesale electricity price as of 1st July this year. This will take over \$1.3 Billion out of the pockets of electricity consumers in NSW alone.

“Individual consumers need to take control in the next 8 weeks. Retailers are putting the onus of this price hike back on consumers and the government is letting them. They need to dodge these price rises to save themselves and to send a powerful message to the industry and government that they are no longer asleep at the wheel and expect competitive pricing” says Tim Wolfenden, energy consumer advocate and founder of the Energy Bill Doctor.

This short video from Tim Wolfenden explains why we are facing these price rises and what they means for consumers. <https://goo.gl/nFyDGY>



## How can consumers avoid electricity price rises?

Tim Wolfenden is encouraging consumers to follow this 5-Step Plan in the next 8 weeks to reduce their electricity costs:

1. Understand that rates can vary wildly from year to year with a given retailer and energy companies can change the rate without consumer permission.
2. Check their electricity rates immediately and every 6 months after that to ensure they are not paying too much.
3. Switch to a provider with a cheaper rate.
4. Check what social payments are available; such as the newly introduced one-off payment to help pensioners with their electricity bills this winter.
5. Make their homes more energy efficient. There are many things those on a low budget can do.

## How to find a lower rate?

No matter how you do it, whether it's through negotiating a better rate with your existing supplier, through your own research, or using an energy comparison service, you should find out if you're on a competitive energy deal, and if you're not then switch!

There are a number of switching services available that take different approaches. The Energy Bill Doctor provides a 100% accurate bill comparison and an easy switching service. All consumers need to do is take a photo of their bill on their phone and upload it to the Energy Bill Doctor website (<http://energybilldoctor.com.au/>). They get back an analysis showing how much they can save and simple instructions on how to switch suppliers.

## How to find out about social payment?

Information about social payments can be found on the Centrelink website. But consumers can easily miss new payments, so Tim has committed to spreading the word on his Facebook page.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/energybilldoctoraustralia/>

## How to get simple energy efficiency tips?

Tim also uses his Facebook page to offer tips to consumers on how to make their home more energy efficient. Great energy tips are also published at <http://yourenergysavings.gov.au/energy/energy-efficient-living/getting-started-energy>



## About Tim Wolfenden

Tim Wolfenden is founder of the Energy Bill Doctor which provides consumers with a 100% accurate, easy-to-use energy bill analysis tool.

Tim is an experienced and respected business leader and utility expert. He specialise in online and offline energy and telco bill comparisons and has worked in the energy and telecom sectors for the past 16 years in both Australia and the UK.

Tim has always been passionate about consumer advocacy. He feels the government, the energy industry, and the media aren't doing enough to communicate to consumers what options are available to them to mitigate these unprecedented price rises.

Tim has taken to social media to warn consumers and inform them of how they can avoid any unnecessary financial strain when these unprecedented price rises happen on 1st July, but now he needs the media's help!

## About Energy Bill Doctor

Energy Bill Doctor creates Happiness through Healthy Electricity Bills.

Energy Bill Doctor is a 100% accurate online bill health check and switching service. We've removed all data entry that a traditional switching service has so there's no need to chat on the phone for 30 minutes. We also take care of all the paperwork, making it quick, simple and easy for you to switch to a cheaper, healthier energy deal in just a matter of minutes.

Energy Bill Doctor helps consumers Take Back Control of their energy bills. With Energy Bill Doctor you can health check your bill anytime, if it's healthy, there's no need to switch – plus you will have the peace of mind that you are on a great deal

## Interviews

Tim Wolfenden is available for interview by the media. Please contact Myfanwy Thewlis on 0425 714 053 for further information or to make arrangements for an interview with Tim. Alternatively you can call Tim directly on 0430 641 786.

