

Green energy users being hit at meter

By **PETER GARDINER**

AN AVERAGE Noosa household will have to reduce electricity consumption by 10% just to keep the quarterly bill the same as it was before the July 1 tariff increases approved by the State Government.

That is according to Greens candidate for Noosa at the next state election Joe Shlegeris, who is also accusing the LNP powerbrokers of penalising those who are trying to use renewable energy sources by forcing them to pay daily connection fee hikes.

"The new tariffs, as approved by the

Queensland Competition Authority, are designed to punish consumers who have chosen to reduce their electricity consumption" Mr Shlegeris said.

"The daily household connection fee has more than tripled in just two years, adding by itself \$227 to the annual cost of electricity for every single household."

He likened it to being charged for someone providing locals a store in town and charging them "whether you enter the store or not".

"How does the store respond? By forcing everyone to pay \$50 per day, every day," he said.

"Of course that's absurd but it's exactly what has happened with electricity in Queensland," he said.

"The state, through the QCA, effectively forces people to pay above-market prices for electricity while penalising them for buying solar gear or more efficient appliances. That's a direct attack on the 25% of Queensland households which have chosen to spend their own money on solar gear."

Mr Shlegeris said the cancellation of the carbon tax might result in a one-off rebate of as much as \$100 but everyone's bill has increased by hundreds of dollars while "the fixed

daily charge is still rising like a rocket". He said the impact on small business will be "breathtaking".

"Businesses face hugely increased daily connection charges, offset initially by lower consumption charges."

"These changes are designed to destroy all incentive for businesses to control their expenses by making their use of electricity more efficient."

"It's time for the government to get out of the way and let consumers and businesses enjoy the cheap and clean," he said.

A requested Noosa News State Government response was not available by yesterday's deadline.

A rock and roll outlaw will light up Noosa

APART from the floral displays, there's a chance at the Noosa Country Show, on September 12-13, to get up close and personal with a Rose Tattoo.

The bad boy of Aussie rock and lead singer of Rose Tattoo, Angry Anderson will

be headlining an all-star band, including Party Boys and Mondo Rock's Paul Christie, on stage at the Pomona Showgrounds on Friday, September 12, at 6.30pm.

After his vocal pyrotechnics, Angry may be

slightly upstaged by the KC Fireworks' big bangs lighting up the sky.

The Noosa Country Show will feature two stages, the main arena and a circuit of more than 30 acts, including bands, dance, theatre, kid's stage shows, face painting,

animal nursery with sheep shearing, snake and reptile shows plus the Bucking Bull.

Show spokeswoman Mia Hacker said: "Side Show Alley will be full of thrills and amusements, with Shockwave and all the fun of

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POWER PLAY: Greens candidate Joe Shlegeris says energy charges are over the top. PHOTO: WARREN LYNAM