

INQUIRY INTO GENTRADER TRANSACTIONS

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 14/01/2011

Partially Confidential

Submission re: Privatisation of State Electricity Assets.

To whom it may concern,

As a Power Industry worker with over 36 years service I was am still am disgusted by the sneaky way this labor government rammed their disgraceful privatization bills through parliament. It is an insult to the people of NSW and democracy. That it was not the first time that they tried to sneak this through in the silly season just before Christmas, that it was done in the dark of night and that parliament was prorogued to stifle debate does not escape my attention. I am also disgusted by the tame labor members who supported this disgrace (my apologies to those good labor people).

This disgrace will inevitably lead to higher prices once overseas shareholders demand maximum return on their investments from the new overseas owners. I cannot even imagine what economic, political or industrial pressures could be put on us as a nation if this goes ahead. Even if this was a good idea, which it is not, the price named by roozendaale is ludicrous. Is this another "Bottom of the harbour" scheme? This labor government has systematically destroyed the state's electricity assets by employing a policy of risk maintenance. Risk maintenance basically means no maintenance. There have been very few upgrades and basically very little new plant.

The thought of our power stations belonging to foreign owners makes me feel sick. This is contrary to the interests of the people of NSW. How come with a far smaller population the people of NSW could build and maintain and run very successfully power stations but now with double or maybe triple the population we cannot? Are we now open to blackmail from foreign countries? Who are these idiots working for? Whose interests are they serving? Who will they be working for when they lose the next state election? These people belong in jail not parliament.

I firmly believe that if a community or state or country creates a need for a service it has the right to decide by whom and how the service is provided. All flow on economic effects rightfully belong to them. Under no circumstances should a decision as huge as power privatization be decided by anyone but the people, and definitely not by a bunch of morally bankrupt bunch of labor politicians who have NO MANDATE to do so. (My apologies to the many good labor people).

Privatisation has been happening for over ten years in a sneaky and piecemeal manner. For instance, the general station foreman's section was privatized about ten years ago. This section would provide mainly labourers for cleaning up coal spills, meal rooms, showers, toilets, offices etc. Steady permanent full time, if not the best paying job. But with sick leave, holidays, long service leave, work wear and some overtime a decent living was possible. After this section was privatized the far fewer workers were employed on a casual basis ie no sick leave, no holidays and no long service leave; no guaranteed hours of work and a much reduced pay rate. Recently one of the private company cleaners had his hours cut from four days a week to three days a week. He must now support his family on approximately \$365 a week! How can people plan a life based on a job like this? How could you take out a mortgage? How is it possible to retain human dignity under these circumstances? NSW - the premier state, my foot, more like the dictator state. Please also consider the economic devastation and social disasters (suicides) of the sacked Victorian power workers and their communities. This is happening right now in NSW. This privatized cleaning

company is owned by one man. The difference in pay and savings from no workplace conditions goes to the owner of the company. That's right, one man profits, not the workers or the community. Has this person donated funds to the labor party? I hear he has more state government contracts run in a similar way.

There are lots more examples of this as I am sure you know.