

**Submission  
No 37**

## **INQUIRY INTO GENTRADER TRANSACTIONS**

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Submission to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into the 'Gentrader transaction'

## **I oppose the NSW Electricity Sell-off (Privatisation)**

Governments are elected to represent ALL of the constituents of a state, NOT just a few vested interests. The people of NSW have made it abundantly clear on numerous occasions they do not want electricity privatised. NO mention of privatisation was made at the previous election. Despite this, every underhand method seems to have been utilised to do the opposite. **Proroguing parliament and intimidating inquiry witnesses** is an appalling abuse of our democracy.

The proposed power privatisation will be **bad for the economy, employment, household power bills and the environment**. The privatisation of Telstra and Commonwealth Bank are just two examples of what consumers will experience. With Telstra, the Government lost massive annual revenues, employment numbers reduced by more than half, workers forced onto contracts with lower pay and conditions, executives received outrageous salary and bonuses while driving the company value into the ground. Consumers were left to pay hefty phone bill fees and charges. Taxpayers are left to fund the non-profit making sectors (eg rural) that Telstra once cross subsidised.

**With a power sell-off NSW will also lose a valuable income stream** worth much more than the \$5.3 billion sale price. The assets that have been sold return \$750 million a year which pays for teachers, nurses and hospitals. The structure of the sale (gentraders), uncertainty about the future of carbon prices and the brewing international economic storm have minimised the sale price.

**Household power bills will increase** as the gentraders seek to make more profit

**Jobs will be lost** after the protection period expires. Call centre work will be sent overseas.

Despite repeated election promises to act on **climate change**, state governments continue to support rapid expansion of the coal industry and our greenhouse gas emissions escalate accordingly. The power industry creates 40% (60 million tonnes CO2 per year) of this state's greenhouse gas emissions. Coal fired power stations must be phased out and replaced with renewable energy. Privatisation will make this

near impossible as corporate owners are only concerned with “the bottom line”. Buy and burn cheap fossil fuel, boost profits. Taxpayers will then have to hand over billions to induce these corporates to change to clean energy.

**Yours sincerely**

**Colin Ryan**