

**INQUIRY INTO LEASING OF ELECTRICITY  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I would like to comment on the proposed privatisation of the of the NSW Electricity distribution system.

Most of the hype has centered on the money from the sale (oops lease) whether for investments or possible cost savings (depending on which report you read) while ignoring other consequences.

I cannot see the good in passing over control of our essential infrastructure to private and probably foreign companies who will run it to get the most return out of it. As the AER has severely limited the income allowed, this will ultimately mean job losses, reduction in services and maintenance levels. Governments have been looking for ways to force people to work longer but are then happy too see workers thrown on the scrap heap.

The recent storms in the Hunter Valley demonstrated the need for experienced and trained staff which I doubt the private sector will provide.

How will the government control service levels apart from fines which will provide revenue anyway so they won't be too worried about it. There won't be any staff left to police them anyway.

After nearly 40 years in the industry I have seen the cycles of expenditure versus maintenance levels particularly in vegetation control. Cutbacks there eventually result in more system faults possibly causing bushfires which then results in more expense to rectify the problems.

The private companies will make more use of contractors who in turn will look for ways to make profits by minimizing costs. There is already a disturbing trend of them using sub-standard equipment for contestable works.