

INQUIRY INTO GENTRADER TRANSACTIONS

Name: Ms Leah Bennett

Date received: 13/01/2011

Dear Sir or Madam

I would like to make a submission **RE - THE GENTRADER INQUIRY.**

I am appalled that I did not find out about the sale of some of our *State's electricity assets* until mid December despite being an avid reader and interested viewer of Political television channels. Over the past few weeks I have consistently discussed the issue of what has been labelled "**ENERGY REFORM**" by this current government, with my close family, friends and even people I have only just met at shopping centres. I explained to them that this misleading title of "ENERGY REFORM" was not about the government rebuilding and boosting our power infrastructure, but a "**POWER SELL OFF**". They were horrified and shocked that they had been misled by the "Labor Government" in this manner (a government that a great many voters believed was "for the people"). Over the past few days I have found more people are still not informed and don't know that there will be a "POWER SELL OFF".

The many voters as well as myself are deeply concerned about the "SELL OFF" of State-owned assets especially *utilities* such as Power, Gas, and Water. Many people are struggling to pay power bills now and *fear* that they will see higher prices as they will be at the mercy of overseas companies who focus almost completely on producing profits for their shareholders.

The impact on jobs in the Hunter will be great, especially at Kurri Kurri's Hydro and Energy Australia's call centre. Many of these workers will find it difficult to find work in different fields in an area that is struggling already with *high unemployment*.

The price achieved was pitiful in comparison to previous governments who were set to reap a much more substantial reward of up to **25 Billion** if they had been successful. Also the fact that this Labor Government pushed the "SELL OFF" through just before midnight shows that they employed *underhanded/devious* tactics to achieve their desired outcome by insuring that the opposition (which may have outnumbered supporters of this decision) did not have the opportunity to vote against the "POWER SELL OFF".

Sincerely Leah Bennett