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30-year Electricity Strategy  
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To whom it may concern

### **Re: Queensland's 30-year Electricity Strategy Directions Paper**

National Seniors Australia (National Seniors) is the consumer lobby for the over-50s. With 200,000 members Australia-wide, including 80,000 Queenslanders, National Seniors is the fourth largest organisation of its type in the world.

Utility charges, particularly electricity costs, now account for a significant percentage of total household expenditure and are quickly eroding the ability of older Queenslanders to maintain a dignified standard of living in retirement. National Seniors research reveals that nearly three-quarters of a million Australians aged 50 years and over are spending half their income on just three essential cost of living items including electricity.

National Seniors is hopeful that the 30-year electricity strategy will consider the unique situation of older Queenslanders who are in general low users of electricity, have high security of supply requirements, little capacity to pay more for electricity and limited ability to adjust their electricity consumption.

National Seniors believes that the supply of reliable electricity at a reasonable cost is an essential service that must be provided to all Queenslanders. We believe that the strategy can be improved by investigating:

- linking the electricity rebate directly to movements in electricity tariffs;
- the creation of an independent third party which will ensure that the interest of all household consumers are represented and considered; and,
- a number of options to reduce the impact of the implementation of time-based cost-reflective pricing, including allowing older Queenslanders the option to transition to cost-reflective pricing or remain on a flat tariff.

To ensure that the needs of older Queenslanders are addressed in future planning for electricity supply we have attached additional recommendations for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Michael O'Neill  
**Chief Executive Officer**



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heard