



LIZA HARVEY

WA LIBERAL LEADER
MEMBER FOR SCARBOROUGH

Shadow Minister for Public Sector Management; State Development;
Local Jobs; Trade; Federal-State Relations; Citizenship & Multicultural Affairs



MEDIA RELEASE

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CHEAPER POWER BILLS FOR HOUSEHOLDS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

A Harvey Liberal Government will provide West Australian households and small businesses with the opportunity to shop around for cheaper electricity, like they can for gas, under the Liberals Plan for Cheaper Power Bills.

“Providing choice of electricity is expected to benefit more than 1 million households and over 75,000 small businesses, who will receive the same choice for electricity currently enjoyed by big business and government departments,” Opposition leader Liza Harvey said.

“One of the first acts of a new Liberal Government, in the first 100 days, will be to drop the threshold for competition from 50MWh to 20MWh. This will provide immediate benefits to Western Australia’s small businesses.”

The Liberals Plan for Cheaper Power Bills is a fundamental economic reform that is part of their Five-Year COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan. The policy will also apply to charitable and other community organisations.

Shadow Minister for Energy Dean Nalder said the plan would remove state-owned electricity retailer Synergy’s monopoly over households and small businesses, resulting in greater competition and cheaper power bills.

“Western Australia has had the highest increase of electricity charges of any state in Australia over the three-and-half years of the McGowan Government so it is no surprise that West Australians now pay the second highest price for electricity in the country,” Mr Nalder said.

“After the election, Labor intends to increase household electricity by almost 7% and small business electricity prices by almost 16%, which is unacceptable.

“This is just another hit to the hip pocket of West Australians after Labor has increased the cost of living on struggling households by \$850 a year.

“Our plan will give consumers a choice of electricity supplier, like they have with gas, which returns discounts of between 35% and 45%.”



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Mr Nalder said the Liberals were also announcing the Electricity Safety Net, which guarantees Synergy will continue to provide electricity to West Australians at the same prices in the Budget, ensuring that anyone who doesn't want to shop around for a better deal will not be financially worse off.

"An important safeguard is that new retailers will not be allowed to charge over the Electricity Safety Net," Mr Nalder said.

"This important consumer safeguard is to prevent households that sign up for a great introductory offer with a new retailer being slugged with high prices when the deal lapses.

"We will also have the No Asset Sale Guarantee to guarantee there will be absolutely no sale of Synergy, Western Power or Horizon Power, unlike WA Labor, which secretly sold off a number of Synergy renewable energy power stations, including Warradarge Wind Farm, Greenough Solar Farm and the Albany Wind Farm to a Dutch-owned corporation."

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