

# Energy retailers given deadline to sign up for Premier's pledge in warning to expect close scrutiny

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- [Premier warns retailers: 'The clock is ticking'](#)

ENERGY retailers have been warned to expect close scrutiny from the state competition authority if they do not pass on power discounts to customers.

The Premier and several ministers yesterday met with 14 retailers. They gave them until Friday to sign up to her power pledge to give back consumers \$50 for the next two years and to pass on any other savings Labor's planned power interventions create.

It follows speculation Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk could call the election as early as Sunday for November 25.

The State Government announced further pre-election power sweeteners yesterday, including interest-free loans for the purchase of solar panels and batteries and rebates to encourage landlords to put solar on their investment properties.

The Government has also moved to adopt a recommendation of the Queensland Productivity Commission's electricity pricing inquiry to remove a policy blocking regional consumers from returning to Ergon Energy should they leave.

Ms Palaszczuk said it had threatened to re-establish a state-owned retailer to compete with retailers if they did not pass on discounts in full. But she said no modelling had been done as to how expensive that prospect might be for taxpayers.



Power sweeteners include interest-free loans to buy solar panels.

“I have made it very clear that the QCA will be monitoring this and will be reporting to me quarterly and if all retailers do not pass on the savings to customers than I will order the re-entry by the Government into the retailing sector,” she said.

“Two companies have immediately said yes (to passing on any savings) and that is Origin and Alinta and I have asked the other retailers to get back to me by close of business Friday.”

Ms Palaszczuk yesterday tabled a \$28,000 report ordered by the Government to model some of its electricity initiatives, including the removal of the solar bonus scheme from network tariffs for three years and the direction to Stanwell Corporation to adjust its wholesale market offers to lower wholesale prices.

“Combined, these initiatives will lower electricity price rises by a massive 16 per cent for households, commercial and industrial users by next financial year,” she said.

“That’s a saving of \$210 per the typical Queensland household, a \$72,050 saving for commercial business and a \$124,850 saving for an industrial customer.”

The LNP hit back, accusing the Premier of engaging in further pre-election stunts.

“Annastacia Palaszczuk’s promise to remove restrictions on regional Queenslanders switching energy retailers is too little, too late,” Opposition Energy spokesman Michael Hart said.

Infrastructure Association of Queensland CEO Steve Abson accused the State Government of focusing on “kneejerk election sweeteners”, rather than strategies to encourage changes in consumer behaviour to lower consumption and save on power bills.

“The real story here is that after three consecutive years of record dividend gouging from energy GOCs (government-owned corporations), funded directly through power bills by Queenslanders, the Palaszczuk Government has decided it now has a case to answer,” Mr Abson said.