Guy Barnett MP

Minister for Trade Minister for Primary Industries and Water Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister for Resources Minister for Veterans' Affairs Liberal Member for Lyons



Tasmanian Government Media Release

Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy | June 2021

Delivering downward pressure on the cost of living for Tasmanians

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is delivering on its commitment to keep downward pressure on the cost of living.

Energy is an essential service and it impacts the lives of Tasmanians every day, whether at home or at work, especially during winter.

We committed in our first 100 days to provide winter power bill relief of \$125 for eligible concession households, giving direct assistance to those who need it most.

The \$125 energy bill supplement will apply this winter for households with a registered electricity concession on their electricity account, reducing energy bills for around 90,000 Tasmanians at a cost of up to \$12 million.

This means that if you have an annual electricity concession applied to your power account, you don't need to do anything - the supplement will be provided as a credit on the first quarterly power bill received by customers after 30 June 2021.

But importantly, if you haven't applied for an electricity concession on your power account, please contact your retailer before the end of August to be eligible for the Winter Supplement.

In addition, we have also committed to boosting the No Interest Loan Scheme's Energy Saver Loan and Subsidy Scheme.

The highly successful NILS Scheme has already supported thousands of vulnerable Tasmanians with access to safe, fair, and affordable credit to purchase energy efficient appliances.

Demand for the Scheme has been steadily increasing since 2018-19, from 2,500 loans per year to a forecast 3,500 loans in 2020-21.

And, as part of our election commitment, we are now doubling the current funding for the NILS Energy Saver Loan and Subsidy from \$1 million to \$2 million over a four-year period.

We are also fulfilling our commitment to deliver the lowest regulated power prices in the nation by 2022.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government has a proven record when it comes to taking action to reduce cost of living pressures by restricting electricity price increases in nominal terms to no more than 2.2 per cent over the past seven years.

Tasmanians voted for stability and certainty and we laid out a clear plan to secure Tasmania's future which includes delivering some of the lowest regulated electricity prices in Australia.

For more information about the Annual Electricity Concession and eligibility please go here <u>https://www.concessions.tas.gov.au/concessions/electricity_and_heating</u> or call your electricity retailer.

For more information about the NILS Scheme go to <u>https://nilstasmania.org.au/</u>