

# ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MEDIA RELEASE: Gas, Privatisation, Under Microscope At Electricity Prices Forum**

The extraordinary increases in power prices that have hurt South Australia – especially its low-income residents – will be the focus of a special forum on Friday October 20th, as part of Anti-Poverty Network SA's Anti-Poverty Week conference, *Attack Poverty, Not The Poor*.

Three expert speakers – SA Greens MLC Tammy Franks, Solar Citizens Campaigner Dan Spencer, and Green Left Weekly Environment Correspondent Renfrey Clarke – will lead an urgent discussion on how gas and privatisation have fuelled massive rises in our energy bills, and what we can do to regain control of our electricity system

Anti-Poverty Network SA State Coordinator Pas Forgione said, “For those on welfare payments – such as the unemployed, sole parents, and Disability and Age Pensioners – rising energy costs have been devastating, adding to the already immense financial hardship experienced. Unaffordable power means poor people going without heating and cooling at critical times, with impacts on their health and quality of life. There is no doubt that over-reliance on gas, and a privatised electricity market are driving this unjust, inexcusable reality.”

SA Greens MLC Tammy Franks said, “Renewables are making electricity cheaper, but you wouldn't know it looking at your power bill. The big power companies are doing everything they can to fleece their customers, and it's time the Government stepped in and capped electricity prices. The Greens will take the power back from big corporations and put it back in the hands of the people. Electricity is an essential service and electricity prices should be brought back under public control. What's good for the people can also be good for the planet.”

Solar Citizens Campaigner Daniel Spencer said, “South Australia is in the midst of an exciting transition to clean, cheap energy but we need to make sure nobody is left behind. We need to see politicians committing to ensuring people on low-incomes and renters can access the benefits of cheap, clean energy and more investment into new renewables with storage to get South Australia off expensive, polluting gas.”

Green Left Weekly Environment Correspondent Renfrey Clarke said, “If South Australia were a country, its residential electricity prices would be the highest in the world. The power price rip-off reflects soaring natural gas prices, as gas supplies from eastern Australia are liquefied and exported. Energy supply systems, as natural monopolies, are inherently ill-suited to private ownership. The energy industry needs to be taken back into public hands.”

'Taking Back Our Power: How Privatisation And Gas Led To Skyrocketing Electricity Prices' will be

held on Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 3pm, at Clayton Wesley Uniting Church, Beulah Park, as part of Anti-Poverty Network SA's Anti-Poverty Week conference, *Attack Poverty, Not The Poor*.

**FURTHER INFO:** Anti-Poverty Network SA State Coordinator Pas Forgione, on 0411 587 663, or at [antipovertynetwork.sa@gmail.com](mailto:antipovertynetwork.sa@gmail.com).