



United Retail Federation

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MEDIA RELEASE

Retailers and Small Business Outraged by Big End of Town 'Welfare'

Driscoll – “Premier Keneally is as out of touch as the previous conga line of miserable Labor Premiers in New South Wales”

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

The **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing the retail sector has today condemned the Keneally State Government's decision to exempt both big business and government from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) electricity retail price determination, whilst hiking electricity prices on small business and the working families of NSW.

Scott Driscoll, National Executive Director of the **United Retail Federation**, has slammed the State Government's decision to hit small business with crippling price rises whilst “sneaking out the back door with the big end of town”, adding that the decision is “an immoral act from a cowardly government and proves Premier Keneally is as out of touch as the previous conga line of recent Labor Premiers in New South Wales”.

“The retail sector is under systematic attack and this is just another frontline. The current leader of the dysfunctional State Government has today signaled an all out assault on small business with this cowardly and immoral decision,” Mr Driscoll said.

“It is simply appalling that a state Premier would make such an elitist and out of touch decision that hands out electricity welfare tickets to the big end of town whilst breaking the economic backbone of the state with these price hikes.

“Small business, particularly the retail sector, has been struggling with a hostile economic environment, depressed sales trends and a dried up credit market for accessing finance. Quite frankly, this is likely to be the last straw that breaks the back of this sector.

“The Energy Minister John Robertson, who has been breathing the rarefied air on the lofty heights of union money and now taxpayer money, might think it's perfectly okay to excuse the government from these crippling price hikes.

“However, if the Minister has a working class bone left in his body, he might remember that there are struggling small businesses and working families out there who will lose their businesses and their jobs as a result of his Government's elitist attitude on electricity prices.”

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