



United Retail Federation

Serving Members Australia Wide™

MEDIA RELEASE

New South Wales Government risks massive job and business losses over the state's spiralling electricity prices

***Driscoll: "Any kid who has played Sim City on a computer
could tell the NSW government these spiralling power costs
will see business leave"***

TELEPHONE: 1300 721 730

FACSIMILE: 1300 554 552

EMAIL:
info@unitedretailfederation.com.au

WEBSITE:
www.unitedretailfederation.com.au

BRISBANE:

Suite 3, 321 Kelvin Grove Road
KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059

PO Box 105
KELVIN GROVE BC QLD 4059

MELBOURNE:

Level 27
101 Collins St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

SYDNEY:

Level 57
MLC Centre
19-29 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

ADELAIDE:

Level 24
Westpac House
91 King William St
ADELAIDE SA 5000

PERTH:

Level 28
AMP Tower
140 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

ABN: 53 009 660 495

20 September 2010

A peak national industry body, the **United Retail Federation**, has expressed "extreme fear of massive job losses" as a direct result of dramatically increasing electricity and gas bills in New South Wales.

Scott Driscoll, National President of the United Retail Federation, which has represented the interests of independent retailers in Australia for over 120 years, has launched a scathing attack on the NSW government for allowing power prices to increase by 50% in many cases.

"This is an example of bad planning coming home to roost and now the economic pain kicks in for not only big business, but small business and also employees as well", said Mr Driscoll.

"We have been watching this train rolling towards us for some time now and the NSW government has continued to rip out nearly 14 Billion dollars in dividends from the state power retailers, without any regard for the future of affordable power supply in NSW.

"Now we have clapped out and ageing power infrastructure that has been neglected, in favour of the NSW government using power dividends to plug other holes in a sinking ship.

"I'm calling on Premier Kristina Keneally to intervene and ensure power prices are reigned in before we see a caravan convoy of businesses heading for the nearest border to hang out their shingle again.

"If Premier Keneally wants to genuinely work with industry on this critical issue I'm happy to do so. Otherwise NSW businesses and NSW jobs are about to be gone forever," said Mr Driscoll.

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.