

# ELECTRICITY PRIVATISATION

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*“The CFMEU opposes the NSW government’s plans to privatise retail and leasing of the generation sector of the NSW Electricity Industry.*

*We do so for the following reasons:*

*National and international evidence shows that privatisation inevitably leads to higher prices for citizens. For example Victorians are facing a 17% price increase from January 1st this year. The plan lets the private sector set prices after 2013.*

*Privatisation diminishes the certainty of supply. Two examples in the last few years are: one, the entire collapse of the Auckland electricity grid for two months and two, the total failure in the Californian supply whilst their supply was being sold interstate.*

*Loss of job security as jobs are contracted out.*

*Ongoing uncertainty as to the impact of emission trading and carbon taxes. These could wipe out any alleged profit from the sale.*

*No mention was made of these plans in the run up to the 2007 state election.*

*The loss of ongoing dividend payments to the NSW Government currently running at approximately \$1 Billion dollars per year.*

*With global warming the No.1 threat to Australia’s future, privatisation would make co-ordinated government action to combat this threat more difficult to implement.*

*The CFMEU is fundamentally committed to the public ownership of key community assets such as the electricity industry.*

*Conference endorses the Unions NSW “Stop the Sell Off” campaign and urges members to attend the rally planned for Tuesday 26 February at NSW Parliament House.”*