

We The People

Program 185

Power Corrupts



Good day to you. Well just in case you thought the Queensland State government had taken a turn for the better I have news for you, it hasn't. In fact if you think Greece is being strangled by government and bureaucracy and careless management then Queensland is giving Greece a run for its money or more correctly our money. Someone has forgotten to tell these bureaucratic clowns and political infidels that **we the people** are in charge and that they work for us. So here is what Ariadne Palaszczuk is supporting.

The cost of electricity just keeps escalating and we the people are struggling to pay for all the waste governments thrust upon us. Behind the scenes there are a plethora of regulators and bodies all containing a goodly measure of Board members and managers who are solicitors and government bureaucrats and in that do not and cannot represent, **we the people**. In fact Bayley's law states that the care factor on a Board is inversely proportional to the number of lawyers and civil servants on that Board. The Australian Energy Regulator along with Energex and a host of others fit the bill in this regard and is part of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission which is surprising as they don't appear to understand competition at all. They enforce the rules established by the Australian Energy Market Commission. Well even at this early stage in this narrative some listeners will have glazed over and I don't blame you. Just accept that the bureaucracy and electricity people share the same electric blanket.

Now the rot set in back in Premier Beattie's day when he withdrew every drachma he could out of the electricity authorities income in Queensland and left nothing to maintain the network. Of course over time the network fell into expensive disarray. Also remember when Stavros Beattie introduced private billing and other gems into Queensland electricity he promised no one would be worse off and that electricity would become cheaper. That turned out to be a shocking fiasco as we all know. Then in comes solar power and the federal Labor government at the time introduces massive subsidies where those people with solar feeding power back into the grid were paid as much as 50 cents a kilowatt hour while the electricity authorities sold it at around 18 cents. The shortfall was never sustainable and has in part been responsible for driving up the price of electricity. Massive amounts of overdue maintenance expenditure have been responsible for the rest. Well now these civil servants and politicians are at it again to try and pay for their unbridled and irresponsible waste and mismanagement.

Effective July 1 the way we will be charged for electricity changes dramatically. There is less emphasis on how much power you actually use and the political headline will carry the message that power prices for peak will fall from around 28 cents a kilowatt hour to about 24.5 cents. The daily supply charge rises from 91.8 cents to \$1.29, a rise of nearly 40%. The two off peak tariffs being 31 and 33 also add a new daily fee of 3.2 cents each bringing the total new daily charges to a whopping \$1.35 or \$494 per year. That's an overall increase of your daily supply charge of 47% . For those going to solar power you get hit with a new fee of \$350 for metering and just 6 cents a kilowatt hour for power returned to the grid. These fixed prices will mean over time, people with solar power will still have to pay as the emphasis is less dependent on what you actually use. Hellenic logic all the way to the great coliseum in George street Brisbane and the unassailable pantheon in Canberra.

Listeners try this.....the basis for the electricity charge is measured or driven by the value of the grid infrastructure. So this means the prices we pay are as a result of the value of the poles and wires. Now what's cunning about this can be explained by example. Let's say the electricity people build a new section of poles and wires for a billion dollars. When finished they value the additional section as part of the network at say 5 billion. You guessed it, in that we pay charges directly proportional to their artificial value and not what was actually invested. Bayley's law again and clearly we need to become part of the Eurozone. Now don't look to Aristotle Abbot for help as he is busy trying to pay off the debts left by the previous Achaean minded vandals. Mind you, he doesn't give a toss either while budgeting an additional \$50 million to look for that Malaysian aircraft that may have crashed off the Western Australian Coast. Well there you have it and it's all Greek to me, proving beyond doubt that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley