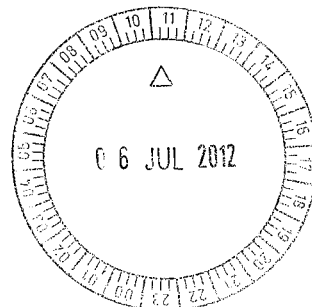




**Hon Peter Collier MLC  
Minister for Education; Energy; Indigenous Affairs**

Our ref: 34-19083

Hon Brian Ellis MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Mr Ellis

**PETITION NO 160 – ENERGY COSTS LEVIED ON SENIOR CITIZENS**

Thank you for your letter dated 13 June 2012 and the attached petition requesting my comments on the terms of the petition and the submission from the principal petitioner.

In response, I would like to emphasise that, as demonstrated in the 2012-13 State Budget, the State Government is committed to providing assistance to energy customers in need.

In recognition of the impact of rising energy prices, the State Government has introduced the new Cost of Living Assistance payment which will replace the Supply Charge Rebate from 1 October 2012. The payment will initially be set at \$200 per year (paid in instalments per electricity bill), and will be indexed each year to an estimated \$254 by 2015-16. This is a significant increase when compared to the existing Supply Charge Rebate of \$147 per year. The payment will be available to low income households including seniors.

In regard to the issue of eligibility for assistance, in 2011 the former Office of Energy provided recommendations regarding accessibility of concessions for households that do not have a direct relationship with electricity retailers. These recommendations are currently under consideration by the Government.

Kind regards

Hon Peter Collier MLC  
**MINISTER FOR ENERGY**

03 JUL 2012

**PUBLIC**