

Old Energy Ombudsman Warns Against Wastage

With summer only days away, the Queensland Energy Ombudsman Barry Adams has warned electricity consumers not to let their bills get away from them. “At this time of the year families are not only hit with the added costs of the festive season, but the increase in temperature places a greater demand on electricity usage and, in turn, an increase in energy bills,” says Adams. “Many people contact the Energy Ombudsman Queensland because they’re having problems paying a high energy bill, especially after a hot summer or cold winter,” he says. “People tend to under estimate their energy usage and are unaware of the amount of energy their home appliances actually use,” Adams adds. “It’s also important to set your air conditioner to 24 degrees. For every one degree cooler you set an air conditioner, you will be charged around 10 per cent more on running costs”. Adams also stresses the importance of turning appliances off at the wall. He says if consumers are still having trouble paying their bill, they should contact their energy supplier immediately to find out if they would offer a payment plan before disconnection. The Department of Mines and Energy has developed an online energy calculator to help consumers estimate the costs of their household electricity use and to find out ways to save money on energy bills.

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