

Power bills are soaring after all, Mr Turnbull (Letter published in AFR, 20 September. Last para deleted by Ed)

It is reported that Malcolm Turnbull has denied Bill Shorten's claim that under the time of the Coalition the average price for electricity in Sydney has increased by \$1000 ("No changes to the RET in looming power supply overhaul", 15/9).

It is also reported that Energy Consumers Australia (part of the Environment Department) confirmed that. However its latest web Update does not extend beyond January 2017 and would exclude the very sharp recent increases. My AGL electricity bill for September is 40 per cent higher than it was a year ago when calculated on a daily basis. That is an increase of \$360 per quarter or about \$1440 a year if continued. Further, contrary to Turnbull's recent announcement that electricity retailers have agreed to be more explanatory, AGL offered no justification.

[Separately, you have reported the ACCC head as classifying AGL as a monopoly but being over-ruled by the Competition Tribunal. Reports of a survey also indicate that very few believe policies which are current or promised by each major party will lead to lower prices. Indeed, even if Liddell is bribed to continue beyond 2022, each promises to further reduce the use of coal-fired generators and prices must increase further. Indications that, out of the blue, the RET target may now not be increased suggest that our energy policy is in disarray and should be subjected to a major underlying change.]

Des Moore, South Yarra Vic