



COTA QUEENSLAND

PO Box 15525
City East 4002
ABN 13 465 280 311

Level 1, 25 Mary St
Brisbane QLD 4000
www.cotaqld.org.au

P:(07) 3316 2999
P: 1300 738 348
F:(07) 3316 2900

15th April 2013

Hon Mark McArdle MP
Minister for Energy and Water Supply
PO Box 15456
CITY EAST QLD 4002
EnergyandWater@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

Congratulations on your first year as a Minister in the Queensland Government. COTA Queensland shares your appreciation of the significant challenges facing the Energy and Water sectors and how they affect the lives of Queenslanders as they age.

In the COTA Queensland Pre-Budget Submission, 'Building an Age-Friendly Queensland', we indicated our support for an electricity and gas rebate for holders of a Centrelink Health Care Card. This remains our key concessional priority in the energy portfolio. We believe it is important that any increase in prices in 2013-14 does not increase the rate of electricity disconnection of the nearly 60,000 Health Care Card holders between the ages of 45 and 59 who are increasingly vulnerable in Queensland society today.

I have appreciated the opportunity to represent the concerns of Queenslanders as they age on your Consumer and Industry Reference Group and at the Ergon Energy Customer Council. I have raised these matters with the Energy and Water Ombudsman of Queensland (EWOQ) in my capacity as a member of EWOQ Advisory Council. I trust that COTA Queensland can continue to play a constructive part in representing and protecting vulnerable consumers of energy and water.

If you require additional information, please contact me on telephone 3316 2999 or by email to mte@cotaqld.org.au.

Yours sincerely

Mark Tucker-Evans
Chief Executive