

Media Release

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Attention: General and Political

Not4Sale proud to stand with pensioners and seniors in fight to save assets

66th APSL State Conference unanimously endorses anti-asset sales stance

The Not4Sale campaign received a strong endorsement last month when The Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League (Qld) State Conference unanimously voted up a motion condemning the Government's privatisation plans.

Stuart Traill from the Not4Sale campaign said the endorsement was a massive shot in the arm for the campaign and an important step in continuing the battle to save assets, jobs and services. <http://www.thesenior.com.au/Caravans-For-Sale-or-Hire/News/Anti-privatisation-campaign>

"We were invited to speak at the conference where we gave the facts about what is at stake. We made the point that historically pensioners and superannuants are particularly affected when prices rise or services are cut. We acknowledged that many pensioners and seniors are on fixed incomes and are already having to make decisions about their budgets." Traill said.

"We heard at the conference Queensland pensioners were seething about the fact that the LNP Government has failed to learn the lessons of the past, they pointed to previous failed privatisations in Queensland (electricity retail and QR National) and electricity privatisation in Victoria and South Australia where prices have continued to rise and services have declined"

"Many of the representatives at the conference were from regional areas and they were rightly concerned about the impact asset sales/leasing will have on their communities, they are really fearful about increasing costs and unsafe services as well as job cuts and loss of revenue"

APSL Queensland State Secretary Raymond Ferguson said the conference attendees were impressed by the manner in which information was presented by Not4Sale representatives.

"It was clear, concise and it cut through the spin, they presented a detailed analysis of the past, present and future of the electricity industry and the impact selling or leasing it would have on pensioners and seniors, this was no scare campaign it was facts and comparisons. They also answered questions when asked and didn't sugar coat the realities.

"We could see that the privatised, by lease South Australian electricity network, charged the most for electricity in Australia and we heard about how poor infrastructure maintenance by private companies impacted on the severity of Victoria's Black Saturday Bushfires"

"Many of our members are doing it tough as it is, with many reliant on fixed incomes saying they cannot afford higher prices and certainly can't afford any reductions in services. As a group our organisation sees the provision of electricity as an essential service that should be owned by the people and managed by Government's we elect and we are proud to stand with the Not4Sale campaign to try and ensure that continues into the future" Mr Ferguson said.

**For further information Stuart Traill (Not4Sale) 0488 225 625, Raymond Ferguson (APSL) 3844 5878, Andrew Irvine
Not4Sale Media Enquiries 0448 633 858**

Authorised L. Watson 37 Peel Street South Brisbane 4101