

NOT 4 SALE

ELECTRICITY PRIVATISATION... IT'S MORE THAN POLES AND WIRES

The Newman Government and their counterparts in New South Wales and the Northern Territory have sought to muddy the privatisation debate by distinguishing between physical assets (Poles and Wires, Power Stations and similar) and human assets, the people who do the job.

Premier Newman as recently as November this year referred to his desire to keep the physical electricity assets but questioned the need to have the employees.

This attack on workers is one of the most extreme forms of privatisation, it would be similar to saying to the Queensland Fire Service, oh we'll keep the engines and the hoses, but we don't need the fire fighters.

The public asset that is Energex, Ergon or Powerlink is more than the poles and wires it is the people who work there, the "public good philosophy", it is management and employment structures that are based on community good not private profit. By privatising (contracting out) the workforce the public loses control of the service to private for profit contractors.

This scenario is often the precursor to full privatisation and de regulation.

Do not be taken in by the rhetoric electricity assets are more than poles and wires.

Physical assets + workers + structures + philosophy = Public Asset

Contracting out of jobs = Privatisation