To whom it may concern

I believe that there are two major reasons for electricity prices increasing at an exorbitant rate over the last five years

One is the fault of the electricity generators and distributors.
The reason is that they failed to set aside monies for generator upgrades and distribution upgrades over the previous 45 years when they are in maintenance mode for the five years when upgrades were scheduled.
As they failed to set aside the monies required, they have UNFAIRLY raised the electricity unit prices on the Australian public. GROSSLY UNFAIR.
These companies and state-government owned enterprises should be legislated to set aside monies for upgrades so that there is no future spike in electricity prices to the Australian Public.

The second reason is the poor regulations surrounding upgrades and reasonable information supply to the Australian Energy Market Regulator. The 45 year hiatus on major capital improvements to generators and distribution networks does not encourage improved efficiencies for generation or distribution of electricity. In addition, the AEMR does not have the power to force electricity generators or distribution companies to redo their estimates on demand and thereby keep prices down. I compare this to the power the Federal Minister of Health has over price increases for Private Health Insurance.

Therefore, I suggest the following

1. Change the regulations to give greater power to the regulator by reducing the ability of electricity generators and distribution companies to appeal a reduction in electricity prices
2. Change the regulations to ensure that electricity generators and distribution companies are setting aside a portion of their budgets for future capital improvements
3. As an addendum to 2, ensure that the regulations state that capital improvements to generators or networks cannot be passed onto the users of electricity.
4. Change the regulations to allow major improvement at periods greater than 10 years instead of the minimum 45 years to allow efficiency gains due to improved technology.

Another issue is that electrical devices such as Televisions, PVRs, stereos, etc do not have a total OFF switch due to the need to maintain internal clocks. Therefore, we all waste electricity on STANDYBY when we could actually use no electricity. Therefore, change the Australian Standard for devices which use electricity (TVs, PVRs, stereos, etc) to state there are 3 states – OFF (no use of electricity), Standby (Minimum use of electricity) and On.

I know this is late but I hope that you consider the above proposals