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**Happy birthday to two of  
our Watts crew**  
**Lyn – 8/8/11**  
**Charmaine – 25/8/11**

**Now I know that times are hard, but  
this will bring a laugh and a smile to  
your face, and I don't care what your  
politics are, this is brilliant.**

*If the ABC was Relevant (Part 44) A John  
Clarke, Bryan Dawes skit.*

*(Scene: A car yard. Bryan is perusing the stock.  
He is approached by John)*

**John:** Morning! Looking for a new car?

**Bryan:** Nope. Prime Minister, actually.

**John:** You're the third one this morning.  
Anything in mind?

**Bryan:** You know ... nothing fancy, reliable,  
economical family model. Something to get  
the country from A to B.

**John:** You mean like a Howard?

**Bryan:** Yeah ... a little Johnny. Nothing  
flash, does the job. Low maintenance,  
economical, sensible. Runs for years, no  
troubles.

**John:** So ... you used to have one?

**Bryan:** Yeah. About 10 years. Great little  
model – don't know why I got rid of him –  
biggest mistake I've ever made.

**John:** What happened?

**Bryan:** Traded him in for a Kevin 07.

**John:** Big mistake.

**Bryan:** Lot of people bought it. Good  
political mileage.

**John:** How was the Kevin 07?

**Bryan:** Came with a \$900 factory rebate –  
that was good.

**John:** Anything else?

**Bryan:** Not much. Sounded nice but  
nothing under the bonnet. It was a lemon.

**John:** Didn't stick around for long did it?

**Bryan:** Nah – had a factory recall. Shipped  
overseas and was never seen again.

**John:** What was the problem?

**Bryan:** Lots. But the final straw was the  
navigation system. Plug it in and it  
automatically loses its' own way.

**John:** Whatcha got now?

**Bryan:** It's a Gillard-Brown.

**John:** The hybrid?

**Bryan:** Yeah. The Eco-drive system – not a  
good idea. An engine that can't deliver  
hooked up to a transmission stuck in  
permanent reverse.

**John:** Green paintwork with a red interior.  
And steering that always lurches to the left  
for no apparent reason – that's the one?

**Bryan:** The Fustercluck model.

**John:** The only one they made, Bryan. Not  
the vehicle of choice for the road to  
recovery – but did they finish up fixing the  
navigation system?

**Bryan:** Made it worse. Turn it on and it  
does a press release, heads off in all  
directions and goes nowhere.

**John:** So that's why you're here?

**Bryan:** That's right. I'm stuck with a  
government that's wasteful, expensive,  
ineffective and past its' use by date. I don't  
suppose you've heard of the 'Cash for  
Clunkers' scheme?

**John:** Join the queue, brother.

# WATTS NEWS

## *Kindly provided by one of our favourite clients*

The Federal Government has announced that it will introduce a price on carbon from 1 July 2012. Below is a summary of the likely impact of the Carbon Pricing Scheme on landlords.

### Utility Charges

The Scheme is expected to cause a 10% increase in electricity prices and a 9% increase in gas prices immediately after it commences. However, it is possible that electricity and gas prices will continue to rise after the introduction of the Scheme because Australia's electricity is mainly generated by coal-fired power stations that will be heavily impacted by the Scheme.

Many landlords buy electricity and gas in bulk and then on-sell to their tenants, with each tenant's consumption being metered. In such cases, landlords will be able to pass any price increases directly on to their tenants.

However, landlords also consume electricity for lighting and to operate air conditioning in common areas of buildings. A landlord's ability to pass on increased electricity charges will depend upon whether its tenants are required to contribute to the outgoings for the building which they occupy. If a landlord's tenants are not required to contribute to outgoings (ie they pay a 'gross rent') then the landlord's return on its investment will be diminished.

### Inflation

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is expected to rise by an extra 0.7% when the Scheme is introduced. Consequently, landlords who have negotiated annual CPI rent reviews will benefit at the expense of their tenants. However, it is possible that the Australian Bureau of Statistics may publish the CPI net of the impact of the Scheme (as it did when the GST was introduced),

### Recommended action

Landlords should review existing metering arrangements to ensure that all electricity and gas consumption by tenants is metered. Now may also be an appropriate time for landlords to move from charging a gross rent to a net rent for new leases.

## MYLO BROWNCOAT'S

### The Good, The Bad, The Unforgivable and The Interesting

#### The Good

1. Brookfield Multiplex – Kym Bell and Portside. Kym you are a legend! Thank you for finally changing Suppliers so we can have all Accounts issued per month and charged correctly. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
2. SBS – John Driver and Rob Stewart for the fabulous remote meter readings. We receive them on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. SBS is super!
3. Mark Metz – Mirvac – is faster than Flash Gordon! For your prompt responses to our emails and your assistance with the set up of Education City.
4. AGL - Sam and Katie – thank you for always delivering the goods!
5. AGL – Susan Nguyen – finally a woman with common sense for the Network backdated charges. Mylo said you are awesome!

#### The Bad

1. Tariff 41 electricity accounts from Origin for billing periods of:

5 days  
55 days  
7 days  
2 days  
68 days

God, please send us a truck full of patience, wine, chocolates and the strength to carry on.

#### The Unforgivable

A customer can choose who they wish to have as a Meter Provider and Meter Data Agent (MP & MDA) – since entering the Constable Market, this customer had chosen Metering Dynamics. In the tender request for a price offer – it was clearly detailed Metering Dynamics was to be the MP & MDA. Origin was successful and the customer signed the electricity sale agreement.

There was no communication from Origin and unknown to the customer they were not going to honour the customer's request and changed the MP & MDA together with the removal of the great meter with the Energex display and ID's and installed another meter. This meter looks like a cheap import and all the meter reader can obtain is Total Use. There is no more day, shoulder, night use or demand reading, highest demand, number of demand resets or time and date.

Origin was contacted and the customer was advised – you have to have an actual Metering Dynamics agreement. So customer got agreement signed and a copy was emailed to Origin. Customer was advised verbally that it would be changed back and we all thought, excellent – thank you Origin. Alas, Origin did not honour their words – Origin will not accept the agreement as it was sent through after the meter change. Well, no-one knew what Origin was doing until Meter # 4-309308 was ripped out and where has this meter gone? Probably to the meter graveyard. So in the southern states, they have 'parent, child and orphan' meters. Now in Qld, our meters are being ripped out and killed so we can now add 'dead meters' to the list. Origin advised they could not do this as it would be too large a cost for them to change the meter back. If they had not changed the meter initially then there would have been NO COST!

Another true example of how Qld customers are treated and even though the customer can choose, it appears Origin can do whatever they like without any advice to the client.

### The Interesting

Have you ever looked up **ORIGIN** in the dictionary?

#### Origin (orra-jin)

1. **Something from which anything else starts, issues or is derived.** 'Starts' – as in first accounts start – to date this has not been good. 'Issues' – got that right! Ongoing, repeated and continued billing issues. 'Derived' – overcharges on accounts and Origin bills do derive extra funds.
2. **A beginning or first stage "the origin of the war dates back several years".** The 'beginning' of the Origin billing issue dates back to when Peter Beattie (Qld Govt) sold Energex/Sun Retail to Origin and so began this nightmare of wrong bills. This sale was not good for Qld customers.
3. **The point where two or more axes meet.** Again correct, the **axe** has fallen on many Qld customers and continues to do so every day.

## Retirement Dinner

A Priest was being honoured at his retirement dinner after 25 years in the parish. A leading local politician and member of the congregation was chosen to make the presentation and to give a little speech at the dinner.

However, he was delayed, so the Priest decided to say his own few words while they waited:

I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here. I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set and when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents, embezzled from his employer, had an affair with his boss's wife, taken illegal drugs and gave VD to his sister. I was appalled. But as the days went on I learned that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people.

Just as the Priest finished his talk, the politician arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately began to make the presentation and gave his talk:

"I'll never forget the first day our parish Priest arrived, said the politician. In fact, I had the honour of being the first person to go to him for confession".

**Moral: Never, Never, Never be late!**