

2 October 2025

By your side



The Hon Chris Bowen MP  
Minister for Climate Change & Energy  
Australian Parliament

By email: [chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au); [Krystle.mccarthy@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:Krystle.mccarthy@dcceew.gov.au)

Dear Minister Bowen,

We thank you for your ongoing engagement with us and your willingness to discuss matters relevant to the Union and its members. Following on from our most recent Executive meeting we have the following matters which we would be keen to get your perspective on:

**Question 1:** With the cost-of-living crisis in Australia & around the world (many people facing homelessness), will the Government look into providing single adults who are not on the minimum wage, no dependants, nor a disability or experiencing a crisis - payment assistance towards Electricity /Gas Bills in all states of Australia ?

**(Background:** The Government provides a lot of assistance to families, single parents etc for those on low incomes via Concession Card Holder Energy Rebate & EAPA (Energy Accounts Payment Assistance) for crisis, hardship or emergency.

Single people with no dependants are responsible for all bills on their own & yet unless they are on the minimum wage, have a disability , are at risk of disconnection, or are in a crisis are not eligible for any help. They also miss out at tax time while contributing towards Australia's economy & paying taxes etc)

**Question 2:** Installing EV chargers or renewable energy batteries in apartment buildings faces several challenges, both technical and regulatory. Are there any plans for the Government to ease the pressure on Apartment owners?

**Question 3:** What measures is the Government considering to encourage landlords to install solar panels on rental properties? Current incentive schemes appear to primarily benefit owner-occupiers, leaving renters—often among the most financially vulnerable—facing disproportionately high electricity costs. Is there a plan to address this equity gap in the energy transition?

**Question 4:** Given recent discussions around carbon border tariffs and the safeguard mechanism, what is your position on introducing a broader carbon pricing framework in Australia?

We look forward to hearing from you regarding our queries.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Hughes".

Stephen Hughes  
ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY

UNITED SERVICES UNION

NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CLERICAL,  
ADMINISTRATIVE, ENERGY, AIRLINES  
AND UTILITIES UNION

T 1300 136 604  
E [united@usu.org.au](mailto:united@usu.org.au)  
[www.usu.org.au](http://www.usu.org.au)  
ABN 95 571 805 442

**Sydney Head Office**  
Level 7, 321 Pitt St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
**Regional Offices**  
Newcastle, Wollongong

**Satellite Offices**  
Armidale, Bathurst, Canberra,  
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