

We are deeply concerned about the proposed draft electricity prices increase for regional businesses ranging from 9.3% to 13.6% depending on the tariff. Our business which employs 4 local people in a region (Cassowary Coast) where high unemployment and underemployment is common, cannot absorb such an increase. Put simply it would seriously undermine the viability as the processing of cocoa and the manufacturing of chocolate requires airconditioned facilities and extensive refrigeration for finished product. As it is the electricity supply is unreliable with frequent outages forcing us to have emergency standby generation capacity (at great cost). A significant REDUCTION in power cost is what is required to ensure business in regional areas remains viable. NOT an increase.