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QUEENSLAND businesses are being warned about a dramatic price hike in their electricity bills with the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) imposing a 13.29% increase in electricity costs from July 1.

Research by MakeltCheaper.com.au, an independent business energy price comparison service, revealed small and medium sized businesses in South-East Queensland are going to be hardest hit.

The local corner shop's bill will increase by about \$320 a year. A restaurant or cafe that relies more heavily on its power supply is likely to suffer an increase of almost \$1200 per year or \$3000 for a larger user.

"These big bills could destroy businesses throughout Queensland," MakeltCheaper CEO Tim Wolfenden said.

"However, smart business owners can easily avoid such crippling bills by switching to a new supplier that will give them a much better deal."

There are 11 energy retailers in Queensland and Mr Wolfenden said since full retail competition was introduced in 2007, the customer was in a very strong negotiating position.