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Real action on energy prices needed, not hollow talk fest

The Turnbull Government has demonstrated again its weakness in the face of rampant power price increases.

Today's meeting in Canberra with the big energy retailers has descended into farce, with the Energy Minister lamenting as "ridiculous" the market rules for which he has been responsible for two full years.

The rules are broken for the people that actually have to pay power bills, with soaring power prices putting jobs at risk and families under serious financial pressure.

A talkfest like the one in Canberra today will do nothing to relieve the crippling energy costs facing workers and businesses. It is nothing more than a hollow gesture.

Quotes attributable to Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) President Ged Kearney:

"The neo-liberal free market ideology has failed ordinary people badly, and nowhere is this more evident than in the energy sector."

"Under Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull power companies have been given free rein to price gouge customers while paying little or no tax on their multi-billion dollar profits."

"It's clear retail deregulation has been an abysmal failure. Big power companies have shown they game they system, and it's the government's responsibility to rein them in."

"A 'stern talking to' in Canberra will do nothing to address the reality that people are getting ripped off by big power companies."

"Energy prices have been at crisis levels for years now, and the continued failure of the Government to address it is pushing families into poverty."

"That Australia now has the highest power prices in the world is a damning indictment of the Turnbull Government's ability to govern in the interests of working people."

"We need urgent power price relief for workers and their families who haven't seen a real wage rise in years and can't afford to pay their sky rocketing power bills."

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