



Surging power bills raise the alarm

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POWER prices will be a key election issue, with the exclusive Australia Speaks survey revealing they're the most concerning household expense for the majority of voters.

Millennials were the only demographic that didn't view rising electricity and gas prices as their key concern, according to a special election edition YouGov Galaxy poll.

South Australia, which overtook Denmark to have the highest electricity bills in the world in 2017, was the state that saw power prices as its biggest concern, followed by NSW and Victoria. Regional voters saw electricity and gas bills as their biggest concern by far (39 per cent), followed by insurance costs (21 per cent).

Young Australians rated their mortgage as the bigger issue, with 28 per cent saying it was their main concern.

Every other demographic – Baby Boomers, Gen X, mums and dads, Australians without children and voters in every state and territory – named electricity bills as their chief concern among household expenses. It's unsurprising when a consumer watchdog report last year showed household power bills had risen 35 per cent in real terms in 10 years since 2008. That's a price jump of about \$426.

Private health insurance was the second biggest concern among household expenses, followed by mortgage

payments and grocery bills.

Petrol prices was a minor concern, with only 7 per cent of listing it as a key issue. Australia's lowest-paid workers were far more concerned about power bills than the higher-paid, with 40 per cent naming it as an issue, compared with just 24 per cent of workers who earned \$100,000 plus a year.

Which household expense most concerns you

Source: YouGov Galaxy

ELECTRICITY AND GAS	35%
INSURANCE INC HEALTH	22%
MORTGAGE	16%
GROCERIES	15%
PETROL	7%
NONE OF THE ABOVE	5%