

27 February 2002

Reference: R00/0080

Dr Thomas G Parry
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q 290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 230



Attention: Michael Seery, Program Manager Electricity

Dear Dr Parry

Underground Electricity Cables in NSW

Council is aware that submissions for Underground Electricity Cables in NSW has now closed but would like to request to place a late submission.

Attached is a copy of a letter that Council forwarded to the Premier's office on the 31 January 2002 requesting that the Government of New South Wales includes the City of Blue Mountains in the Inquiry. The issues raised in Council's letter are relevant to the Tribunal's current deliberation and Council asks that they be given consideration.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this late submission.

Yours faithfully

MICHAEL WILLIS
General Manager

Encl.



31 January 2002

Reference: R00/0080

The Hon **Bob Carr**, MP
Premier of **New South Wales**
Parliament **House**
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Carr

Subject: Plan to bury Sydney's overhead power cables

This Council strongly requests the Government of New South Wales to include the City of Blue Mountains in the Inquiry into the feasibility and cost of burying Sydney's overhead power lines.

Blue Mountains is a Metropolitan Council and an active member of the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC). In common with western Sydney, our electrical distribution network provider is Integral Energy. We would expect that there would be little difficulty in providing details of the Blue Mountains section of their network for inclusion in the Inquiry. Our communities suffer the same adverse effects of overhead power line failures as our neighbours in Sydney.

Our many small businesses provide much of the local employment in the Blue Mountains. A reliable power supply is essential, particularly for those providing holiday accommodation, tourism and catering facilities. Small businesses cannot afford an emergency power plant and their operations are severely damaged by frequent power and telephone failures during storms, lightning, bushfires, impacts with power poles and other events related to fallen overhead power lines.

It is known that the undergrounding of cables reduces transmission losses and maintenance costs. The Blue Mountains area regularly suffers severe storms and bushfires because of its topography. During emergencies such as bushfires the failure of electrically powered water pumps threatens efforts to save homes. Fallen power lines are known to start bushfires and they create an electrocution hazard for children and the unwary. The community is well aware that residential and industrial development in the Blue Mountains has outgrown its ageing electrical infrastructure and it is imperative that it should be updated with the same urgency as that of the Sydney metropolitan area.

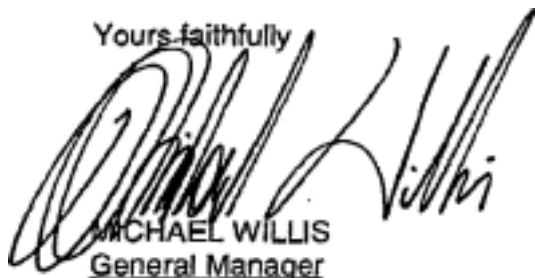


Apart from the legitimate expectations of residents and local businesses, the location of the City of Blue Mountains within a World Heritage National Park warrants early removal of old fashioned and environmentally unsightly power poles, pole-mounted transformers and aerial cables. Further, the regular and unsightly lopping of street trees emphasizes the presence of this aerial pollution. Views from Lookouts across the Jamieson Valley in the high profile tourist areas of Katoomba and Leura are disgracefully marred by an array of aerial wires and poles at Echo Point and along the Cliff Drive.

Residents and Councillors strongly support this representation to the State Government for the City of Blue Mountains to be included in the Premier's Inquiry into the burying of overhead power cables. Your assurance of a positive response to this request would be very much appreciated.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Member for Blue Mountains, the Hon Bob Debus and the Minister for Energy, the Hon Kim Yeadon.

Yours faithfully



MICHAEL WILLIS
General Manager