

Office of the Mayor

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21 January 2005

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Dear Members of the Tribunal.

RE: EnergyAustralia proposal to increase public lighting prices by 70% (real)

Ashfield Council wishes to express in no uncertain terms its objection to the proposed increases in public lighting prices. Any such increase is well above the current rate of inflation and is not justified based on EnergyAustralia's submission to IPART.

Ashfield Council has been an active and supportive member of the SLI Program since close to its inception in an effort to address the poor state of lighting in the municipality and the poor response times in relation to work needing to be done. In view of the range of issues that the SLIP has identified and been trying to work with EnergyAustralia on it would be considered inappropriate to now reward energy Australia for questionable past practices and only minor improvements.

Ashfield Council has always acted in a conscientious and conservative manner in regard to street lighting and infrastructure within the Council area. We were not made aware of the obsolescence of the 'tubular fluorescent twin 20 watt' luminaries, as discussed in the SLIP submission, or the avoidable costs incurred by Energy Australia. We therefore feel that the ratepayers and Council of Ashfield should not have to pay the price for Energy Australia's past decisions.

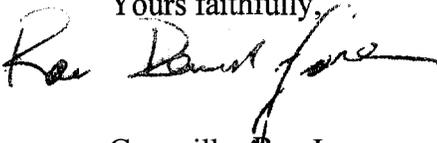
I fully endorse the submission made to the tribunal by SLIP and ask you to ensure that the concerns raised are adequately responded to. To accept EnergyAustralia's submission would have serious ramifications for this Council into the future.

Ashfield Council is working to avoid taking on debt and at the same time maintain it's asset base and provide the many services required by the local community within its budgetary constraints. To endorse the EnergyAustralia submission would in real terms mean cut backs to existing services and programs and the loss of some future projects and programs. Such an outcome is not sustainable or fair.

Ashfield
Municipal Council

I would like to restate **Ashfield** Councils strongest possible support for the SLIP submission to the tribunal and thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mae Jones', written over the typed name below.

Councillor Mae Jones
Mayor of Ashfield

FILE REF: E 14/08

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