



8 July 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 27% Plus CPI

Randwick City Council thanks IPART for the opportunity to make a submission concerning Energy Australia's proposal to increase public lighting prices by 27% plus CPI over the next 37 months. Randwick City Council is a member of the 29 Council's who form the Street Lighting Improvement Program which have made a joint submission on behalf of Program participants.

Randwick City Council strongly supports the joint submission by the 29 member Council's. The proposed Energy Australia price increases will have a large financial impact upon council. Randwick City Council has approximately 10,400 street lights. Randwick City Council currently expends \$829,746 per year on street lighting and the proposed 27% price increase will increase expenditure by Council to \$1,053,777 per year.

Council objects to the price increase particularly as the community will not receive any additional benefit or any increase in the level of service provided by Energy Australia. Most of the street lights provided by Energy Australia are the old technology twin twenty fluorescent lights which are very inefficient and require regular replacement of the tubes. Council's lighting surveys indicate that 10% of street lights within the Randwick City Council at any time are defective requiring maintenance such as replacement of failed tubes, missing light covers and occasionally missing lights. Energy Australia does not provide sufficiently regular systematic street lighting inspections and maintenance to ensure that the existing system is operating at an optimum level.

Regardless, Randwick City Council has no means of passing on such a large price increases to the community as Council's rate revenue is rate pegged.

If IPART have any more enquiries regarding this submission please contact Council's Engineering Co-ordinator, Mr John Earls on telephone 9399 0928 during normal office hours.

Yours Faithfully,

Ray Brownlee
General Manager

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