

MAITLAND CITY COUNCIL

Our Ref. 48/2 (350536)

Your Ref.

Phone Enquiries: 4934 9803
Chris James

28 January 2005

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

Attention: Director Energy

Dear Tribunal Members

RE: ENERGY AUSTRALIA PUBLIC LIGHTING PROPOSAL

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Energy Australia public lighting pricing proposal.

Maitland City Council has major concerns with the pricing increases proposed by Energy Australia. It is anticipated that there will be a requirement for Council to provide an additional \$130,000 annually to ensure the delivery of the current standard of street lighting.

The provision of street lighting is an important service and significant component of Councils annual budget. This proposal will have a significant impact on Council service levels across all areas.

Council would appreciate the Tribunal taking into account the following issues in its consideration of this matter.

1. The need for a detailed explanation of the full cost implications for Council particularly the details of the proposed transitional price path
2. Justification of the large increase in costs including a comparison with charges by other service providers.
3. The need for Councils to be provided with protection in their dealings with public utility monopolies.
4. The need for a fair and equitable approach by energy authorities to public lighting for all Councils in NSW.

Maitland was proclaimed a City on 7 December, 1945 and we are proud to be celebrating our 60th Year.

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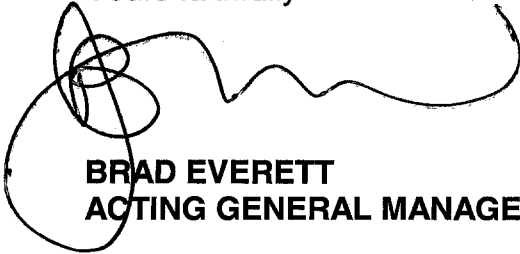
5. The lack of any direct consultation by Energy Australia with Council prior to the submission of the proposal.
6. The inadequate notification time for comment.

Council in considering this matter has resolved to approach Hunter Councils to actively and publicly oppose the proposed increases. Furthermore Council will be encouraging the Hunter Councils to investigate alternative energy providers for the street lighting services for its Council members.

Maitland City Council opposes the proposed price increases and requests that Tribunal reject the Energy Australia proposal.

If you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the printed name.

**BRAD EVERETT
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**