

# City of Ryde

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Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box Q290  
QVB  
NSW

8 July 2005

Our Ref: S3055-02

Dear Member of the Tribunal

## **Energy Australia Proposal to Increase Public Lighting Prices by 27% plus CPI**

I wish to thank IPART for the opportunity to make a submission concerning Energy Australia's proposal to increase prices by 27% real + CPI over the next 36 months. As well, Council has also been advised that Energy Australia intends to apply for other increases of up to 70% during this period.

This Council is one of the 29 Members of the Street Lighting Improvement Program and strongly endorses with the joint submission made on behalf of Program participants. As well, this Council is also a member of the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) and again strongly endorses the submission by Pat Reilly (Mayor of Willoughby) President of NSROC. This particular submission put into perspective the impact that a major increase in the cost of street lighting would have on the provision of services and the maintenance of infrastructure in an environment where Council's income is subject to rate pegging.

This Council's street lighting costs for 2004-2005 are \$1,037,000 and an increase in the cost of street lighting of 70% will be \$725,000. If approved, an increase in street lighting charges of this magnitude will result in a reduction in community services and infrastructure maintenance.

Council urges IPART to reject Energy Australia's revised pricing proposal as it would significantly overcharge Councils.

Should you wish to obtain further information on lighting matters, please contact Council's Acting Group Manager – Public Works (Mr Warren Latham) on 9952 8102.

Yours faithfully



Michael Whittaker  
General Manager