



Your Reference:
Our Reference: F2004/09039
Contact Person: Mr A Boyd
Hours: 8.30am - 4.00pm
Telephone: 9847 6672
Fax: 9847 6980

6 July 2005

The Secretary
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

Dear Sir/Madam

EnergyAustralia's Proposal to Increase Public Lighting Prices by 27% plus CPI

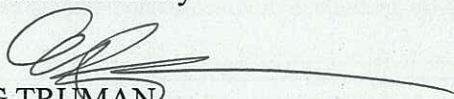
I refer to the above proposal submitted by EnergyAustralia for an increase in public lighting prices. This proposal is apparently a revision of EnergyAustralia's previous 70% increase proposal rejected by the Tribunal in March 2005. Council, as a stakeholder, wishes to comment on this current proposal.

While this current proposal seeks a smaller price increase, it will still cause a minimum increase of some \$270,000 plus CPI for Council to fund. Given that Council's main source of revenue is its ratepayers' contributions which are pegged by legislation, this represents a significant imposition on its budget. It will adversely impact on Council's ability to deliver its programmes and may result in a reduction in some vital services.

Council as one of the 29 members of the Street Lighting Improvement (SLI) Programme fully supports the SLI submission on this proposal. The issues raised therein represent important information for the Tribunal to consider in reaching its determination. As with EnergyAustralia's previous proposal, Council remains to be convinced that there should be any price increase, as these price increases are largely the result of EnergyAustralia's inefficient and obsolete asset management and accounting practices.

I thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and urge the Tribunal to reject EnergyAustralia's proposal. Please contact Council's Executive Manager Works, Mr Maxwell Woodward, on 9847 6665 should the Tribunal require any further information regarding Council's position.

Yours faithfully


G TRUMAN
Acting General Manager

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