



Lane Cove Council

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Date: 7 July 2005
Your Ref: Dorritt Trial Changes2

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

Council again thanks IPART for the opportunity to make a submission concerning EnergyAustralia's proposal to significantly increase public lighting prices.

Council views this proposal as similar to that made in late 2004 by EnergyAustralia. Again, the proposal will merely reward EnergyAustralia for inept performance and poor work practices that are not tolerated in any other sphere of government.

As you may recall, Lane Cove Council is one of 29 member councils involved in the Street Lighting Improvement Program and strongly supports the concerns raised in the joint submission made on behalf of the Program participants.

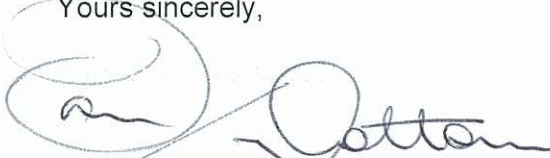
The proposal to increase the public lighting prices by 27% real + CPI over the next 37 months is considered to be a blatant overcharging of local government for the provision of substandard public lighting. EnergyAustralia provides no indication of improving the public lighting levels to that required in the Australian Standards. Council's own inspections of the public lighting in the Lane Cove LGA over the past 12-24 months have identified numerous lighting outages. Some of these outages still remain unattended.

As Council is subject to rate pegging restrictions imposed by the State Government, increases in public lighting pricing that are significantly above CPI, are considered to be totally unfair and unacceptable.

Council urges IPART to reject EnergyAustralia's revised pricing proposal as it would significantly overburden local government without providing any additional benefit to local communities or the public in general.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Executive Manager, Open Space and Urban Services, Mr Wayne Rylands, on 9911-3560.

Yours sincerely,


IAN LONGBOTTOM
MAYOR


PETER BROWN
GENERAL MANAGER