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Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
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Dear Members of the Tribunal,

RE: Energy Australia Proposal to Increase Public Lighting Prices by 27% Plus CPI

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission concerning Energy Australia's proposal to increase prices by 27% + CPI over the next 37 months. This increase would impose an unacceptable burden on Local Government, whose main revenue source is Council rates that are "pegged" by the State Government.

As you may be aware Leichhardt Council is one of the 29 members of the Street Lighting Improvement Program and concurs with the points made in the joint submission made on behalf of the Program participants.

As there is no contestable market for the provision of the public lighting services affected by this proposal, IPART's regulatory protection is vital. Of particular concern to Council is that the Energy Australia's costing models appears to be flawed and greatly exceeds other comparable services.

Council urges IPART to reject Energy Australia's revised pricing proposal as it would significantly overcharge councils. Local Government should not be burdened with an unaffordable increase in costs in order to subsidise the inefficient provision of public lighting services by Energy Australia.

If you require any further information please contact me on 9367 9012.

Allen Mapstone
MANAGER ASSETS