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Mr DJ Hewitt 9710 0389
File Ref: 97/1005

6 July 2005

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

Dear Members of the Tribunal

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

I refer to your letter dated 15 June 2005 and thank IPART for the opportunity to make a submission concerning Energy Australia's proposal to increase prices by 27% real + CPI over the next 37 months.

Sutherland Shire Council is one of 29 members of the Street Lighting Improvement Program and concurs with the points made in the joint submission made on behalf of Program participants.

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

Like all of Local Government, Sutherland Shire Council is financially constrained by State Government restrictions on rate pegging. Any increases on charges, such as street lighting, beyond the annual rate pegging limit will necessitate this Council delaying or indeed not implementing vital community projects.

Should you want to discuss this matter further I would encourage you to contact Council's Director – Engineering (Mr Des Hewitt) on the phone number that appears at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

DJ Hewitt
for J W Rayner
General Manager