

AKP:JEM  
Mr A K Pitcher

July 8 2005

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

Dear Members of the Tribunal

**EnergyAustralia Proposal to Increase Public Lighting Prices by 27% Plus CPI**

I thank you for the opportunity to make a further submission concerning EnergyAustralia's proposal to increase Public Lighting prices by 27% real + CPI over the next 37 months.

Council is a member of the 29 Council consortiums participating in the Street Lighting Improvement (SLI) Program, and as such, concurs with the matters raised in the joint submission made on behalf of program participants.

As previously advised, Council considers that the existing level of services provided by EnergyAustralia does not justify this price increase.

As an integral component of Council's Roads Rehabilitation Capital Works Programme, there is generally a requirement to re-position power poles and street lights to cater for the design needs of a the revised road geometry, and to provide additional lighting to improve the safety of traffic calming devices and pedestrian refuges.

The annual cost of street lighting is an integral component of the total annual expenditure by Council on road infrastructure. This cost increase would seriously impact on the level of capital works completed each year to provide an upgraded and safer road system for both motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Additionally, the scale of this proposed cost increase would be difficult to manage, as it is significantly above the CPI, and Council is subject to rate pegging provisions.

Should you require additional information in support of this submission, please initially contact Council's Asset Management Engineer, Mr Rod Smith, on 4350 5181.

Yours faithfully

D G Cathers  
**Director**  
**SHIRE SERVICES**

**David Cathers**

Engineering Services - Director

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