



Lane Cove Council

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Date: 14 January 2005
Doc Ref: SLIP Submission



Independent Pricing & 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 70% (Real).

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to make this submission contesting EnergyAustralia's (EA's) proposal to increase prices for public lighting services by some 70% (real) over the next 30 months.

Lane Cove Council is one of 29 councils that have participated in the Street Lighting Improvement (SLI) Program that has been administered by SSROC, with consulting firm, Next Energy being the program managers.

Lane Cove Council concurs with the seven issues raised in the submission lodged by the Street Lighting Improvement Program. Council is concerned that this will result in increased annual street lighting charges of over \$200,000 with no visible gain for the community.

In fact, these increased charges will only reward the poor performance and management practices of Energy Australia, and costs that are already considered (within the industry) excessively high for the luminaire types provided. The additional charge proposed for removing luminaires that are obsolete is considered to be just another reward for poor past work practices, where it is obvious to councils that these lights should not have been installed in the first place.

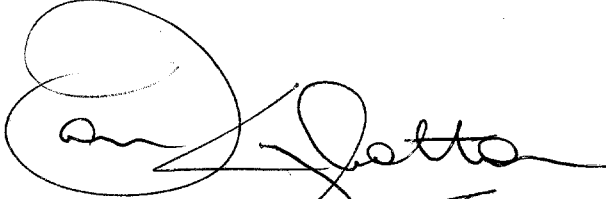
Further to these issues, Lane Cove Council also has serious concerns with respect to the operational performance of a number of Energy Australia's sub-stations in the Lane Cove Municipality; particularly the station situated in the Rosenthal Avenue Carpark, on Birdwood Lane, Lane Cove.

Lane Cove Commercial Centre has experienced numerous power shortages over the past five (5) years resulting in loss of stock, lost business and loss of the public's confidence in the Centre being able to deliver consistently. Council's stance is that Energy Australia should be made accountable for ensuring this infrastructure is reliable before considering a hike in any charges for the service they administer.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make this submission.

Should you require any further information in relation to this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Manager – Engineering Services, Mr Wayne Rylands, on 9911-3581.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ian Longbottom in black ink, featuring a large circular flourish on the left side.

IAN LONGBOTTOM
MAYOR

Handwritten signature of Peter Brown in black ink, with a stylized, cursive script.

PETER BROWN
GENERAL MANAGER