

4 February 2005

IPART  
P O Box Q290  
QVB Post Office  
NSW 1230

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Proposed Increase in Public Lighting Charges.**

Council notes that Energy Australia has a proposal before IPART which involves an average price increase of approximately 28 percent (in nominal terms) for 2005, and

- A further 15% on 1 July 2005
- A further 8% on 1 July 2006
- A further 7% on 1 July 2007

The total compound increase is 67 percent plus CPI over two and a half years.

Whilst Council has an agreement with Country Energy for street lighting charges and is not an Energy Australia customer, it is of concern that should such a large increase in charges be approved there may well be a flow on effect to other electricity suppliers.

Given that Country Energy have recently increased their charges by around 7 percent in December 2004, it concerns Council that Energy Australia have now submitted an application seeking such large increases.

Council requests that before any increases in charges for Energy Australia are approved that IPART take into consideration possible flow on effects to other electricity suppliers.

Yours faithfully

R C Pluis  
**General Manager**  
**Leeton Shire Council**