

Mr D J Hewitt - 9710.0503
File Ref: 04/00071 (DJH:cek)

17 January 2005

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office
SYDNEY NSW 1230

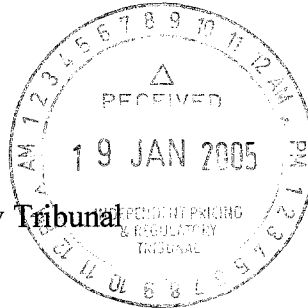


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Dear Members of the Tribunal

Re: EnergyAustralia's proposal to increase public lighting prices

This letter is in support of the Street Lighting Improvement Program's submissions on EnergyAustralia's proposal to increase street lighting charges.

Sutherland Shire Council is a foundation member of the Street Lighting Improvement Program which has been working to achieve reform to serious long standing deficiencies in EnergyAustralia's public lighting services.

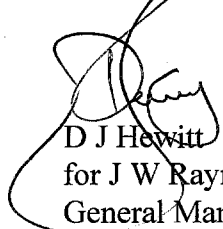
As a large urban Council, the proposed changes put forward by EnergyAustralia, will have a significant financial impact on this Council.

This financial year alone, Council will have to pay street lighting bills in excess of \$170,000 above that figure budgeted for in our current 2004/2005 budget. It has been estimated by the financial year 2007/2008 street lighting charges to this Council alone will have increased by \$1M.

Advice provided by the consultants to the Street Lighting Improvement Program indicates that rather than EnergyAustralia's fees increasing by the 70% proposed, EnergyAustralia could in fact reduce their fees by some 12% if inappropriate costs were removed.

I encourage the tribunal to thoroughly examine the proposal put forward by the Street Lighting Improvement Program and rejecting EnergyAustralia's proposed increases.

Yours faithfully


D J Hewitt
for J W Rayner
General Manager