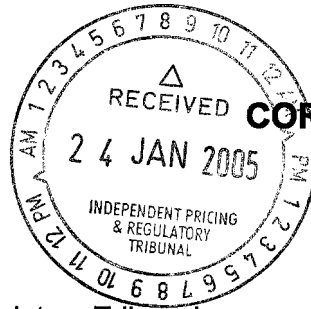




**WILLOUGHBY
CITY COUNCIL**

City of Diversity



CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Property Portfolio Management

20 January 2005

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

Dear Members of the Tribunal,

Re: Energy Australia Proposal to Increase Public Lighting Prices.

Willoughby City Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission regarding Energy Australia's proposal to increase public lighting services by approximately 70% over the next 30 months.

As one of the 29 Councils participating in the Street Lighting Improvement Program administered by SSROC, Willoughby City Council concurs with the issues raised in the submission lodged by the Street Lighting Improvement Program dated 14 January 2005 and on behalf of the Willoughby community would like to register its strong objection to the additional average cost of \$245,000 per annum for the supply and maintenance of public lighting equipment.

Energy Australia's current charges are perceived by the industry to be excessive for the level of service they deliver and the type of luminaries they provide. Council asserts earnestly that to burden the community with the cost of rectifying previous poor management practices is inappropriate and unacceptable.

Council's stance is that Energy Australia's proposal to increase annual public lighting services over the next 30 months ought to be rejected in its entirety by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

Yours faithfully

Nick Tobin
Acting General Manager

Reference: R03-0021
Enquiries: *Byron Figueroa*
Phone: 9777 7709
Availability: 8.30am - 5.00pm

IPART