

12 May 2023

ATTN: Arek Gulbenkogl
General Manager
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Arek

Essential Energy Determination 2024-29 – Public Lighting Pricing

Bathurst Regional Council lies within the Essential Energy Distribution Network area and is a customer for over 200 electricity site connections and approximately 6,500 streetlights. Bathurst Regional Council is a member of the Central NSW Joint Organisation and the Southern Lights NSW Group, which has been engaging with Essential Energy for more than 5 years to deploy more efficient and reliable streetlighting and to advocate for better service and fairer and transparent pricing.

Bathurst Regional Council has been represented on the Southern Lights NSW Group since its inception and has played a key role in highlighting deficiencies and inaccuracies in Essential Energy's streetlight inventory control and deficiencies in the billing and warranty processes.

A representative of Bathurst Regional Council attended consultation sessions offered by Essential Energy during the preparation of its 2024-29 streetlighting regulatory proposal.

Bathurst Regional Council has been involved in the preparation of the Southern Lights NSW submission (**attached**) and fully supports the raising of concerns outlined in the submission.

Should you have any queries, please contact Council's Energy Strategy Officer, Ms Deborah Taylor on [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully



D J Sherley
GENERAL MANAGER

Reference: DT:LMW:28.00014

Enquiries: Ms D Taylor [REDACTED]

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