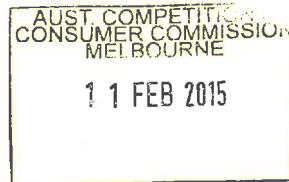


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The Heart of NSW

Ms Michelle Groves
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Energy Regulator
PO Box 520
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

25 January 2015
TRIM Ref D15/721

Dear Ms Groves

It has come to my attention that the Australian Energy Register (AER) has proposed, in a draft determination, significant cuts in expenditure for Essential Energy. I am of the understanding that Essential Energy has proposed a reduction of more than 40% of its capital expenditure but this is not seen by the AER as adequate.

I am particularly concerned with forecasts which suggest that, should the AER draft determination become effective, there will be substantial job losses and a decline in customer service.

Representing a rural area of New South Wales, I am disturbed by the potential consequences of such a determination.

I would ask that a proper and pertinent review be made of the draft determination.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Des Manwaring
MAYOR

Lachlan Shire Council

