



Mr D J Hewitt - 9710.0389
File Ref: GR/06/579784 (DJH:cek)

16 February 2009

Mr M Buckley
General Manager
Network Regulation North Branch
Australian Energy Regulator
c/- aer inquiry@aer.gov.au

Dear Mr Buckley

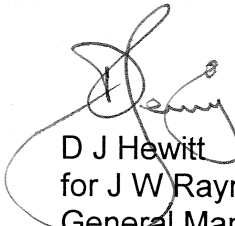
**Re: Council Submission on AER's NSW Draft Distribution Determination
2009-2014 & Energy Australia's Revised Regulatory Proposal**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the AER's NSW Draft Distribution Determination 2009-14 and Energy Australia's Revised Regulatory Proposal of 16 January 2009.

Sutherland Shire Council is extremely concerned about Energy Australia's proposed increases of approximately 78% in street lighting network charges over the coming regulatory period and the lack of transparency in Energy Australia's pricing submissions.

Sutherland Shire Council endorses the submission made by SSROC's SLI Program on behalf of councils served by Energy Australia and urges the AER to give its fullest possible attention to the issues raised. In doing so, Sutherland Shire Council reiterates its concerns about longstanding issues with the pricing and governance regime for public lighting in New South Wales.

Yours faithfully



D J Hewitt
for J W Rayner
General Manager