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16 February 2009

Mike Buckley
General Manager
Network Regulation North Branch
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT2601

Dear Mr Buckley

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

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

Council is extremely concerned about EnergyAustralia's proposed significant price increases in street lighting network charges over the coming regulatory period and the lack of transparency in EnergyAustralia's pricing submissions.

Council anticipates that its total street lighting costs for 2008/09 will be around \$1,730,000 (including energy usage and network charges). A significant increase over the period to 2014 can be expected to require additional expenditure of at least \$1,050,000 (excluding anticipated increases in energy charges). In order to fund this increase, Council may have to consider financial cuts to other services and operations.

Council endorses the submission made by SSROC's SLI Program on behalf Councils served by EnergyAustralia and urges the AER to give its fullest possible attention to the issues raised. In doing so, Council re-iterates its concerns about longstanding issues with the pricing and governance regime for public lighting in NSW.

Yours sincerely

Rik Hart
General Manager

Enquiries: Dan Lovett, 02 9942 2460.