



The Heart of NSW

8 August 2014

Contact Person: **Phil King**

Mr Warwick Anderson
General Manager - Networks Branch
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Anderson

Re Submission to Essential Energy's Regulatory Proposal

Lachlan Shire supports the submission attached by Centroc regarding the *Attachment 8.1 Public Lighting Proposal* component of *Essential Energy's 2014-19 Regulatory Proposal*. The Centroc submission identifies four key issues relating to the unjustified increase in operational costs, lack of commitment to rolling out LED street lighting, excessive input costs into the financial modelling and lacklustre compliance with NSW Public Lighting Code.

Essential Energy has forecast that Lachlan Shire will face an increase of \$40,990 (51%) for the 2015/16 council charges above the estimated \$80,041 for 2014/15 charges. This increase could only be funded by Council reducing our level of service to our community. Rural and regional communities are already suffering from cost shifting toward Local Government. AER has an opportunity to ensure that this does not continue to happen with electricity and in particular public lighting.

If you require any further information regarding this submission please don't hesitate to contact Council's Director Infrastructure Services Mr Phil King on (02) 6895 1966 or 0421 286 557

Yours sincerely

Phil King
Director Infrastructure Services

Enc: Strategic Lighting Partners Ltd (SLP) - Analysis of Essential Energy Proposal to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER)

Lachlan Shire Council

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