

# A regional approach to improved street lighting

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# How Many People Does it Take to Change a Street Light?

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- 138 frustrated councils
- One industry association
- A few consultants
- A couple of utilities
- Several government departments
- A regulator
- and many others....

# Agenda

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1. About SSROC
2. Brief history of street lighting in NSW vs WA
3. Challenges with corporatisation of electricity supply
4. Street Lighting Improvement Program
5. Two solutions to lack of current alignment:
  - Council-managed model
  - New basis of service with utilities



# SSROC's Street Lighting Program...

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- Secured the support of **30 councils covering 240,000 lights**
- Secured the **most energy efficient** portfolio of new lighting
- Deployed **87,000+ energy efficient lights** (with 101,000 more to come!) saving councils **~\$2.5m/yr**
- Started **cutting energy consumption**
- Cut **maintenance** times in **half**
- Reduced pricing claims by \$20m+ in each of the last three regulatory pricing determinations



# SSROC

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- Association of 11 Sydney councils
- 1.7m residents
- Role of SSROC:
  - Joint policy advocacy on regional issues
  - Joint procurement
  - Focus on environment, energy, affordable housing, transport, waste & planning



# A brief history of NSW street lighting

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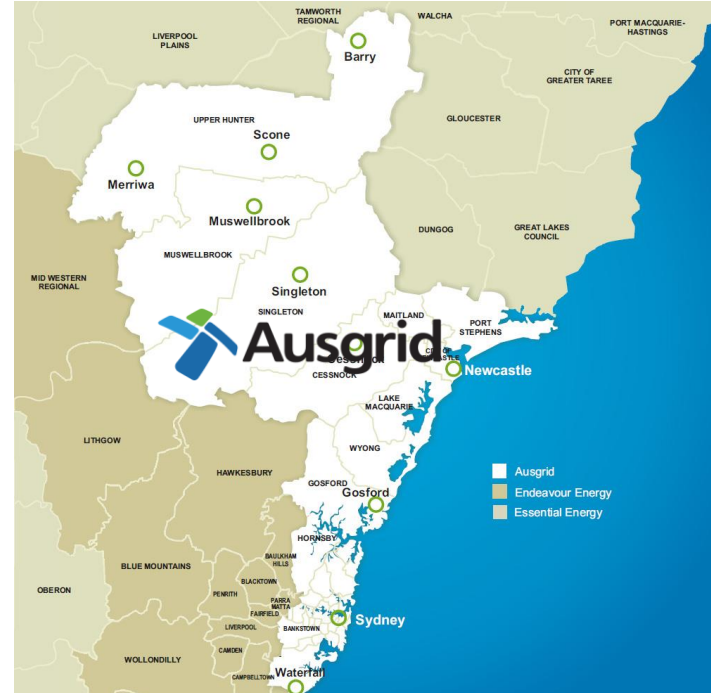
- Sydney got electric street lighting in 1904
- Municipally-owned power plant & network
- Early infrastructure mostly for street lighting and trams
- Council electricity departments progressively merged into regional county-councils



'Sydney Electric Lighting Station' (Pyrmont Power Station) 1904

# Corporatisation of electricity in NSW

- NSW county councils corporatised and merged from 1989 onwards
- Ultimately resulted in 3 state-owned electricity distributors
- NSW Government has recently sold 50.4% of both Ausgrid & Endeavour Energy
- SSROC's program covers nearly all of the **Ausgrid** region



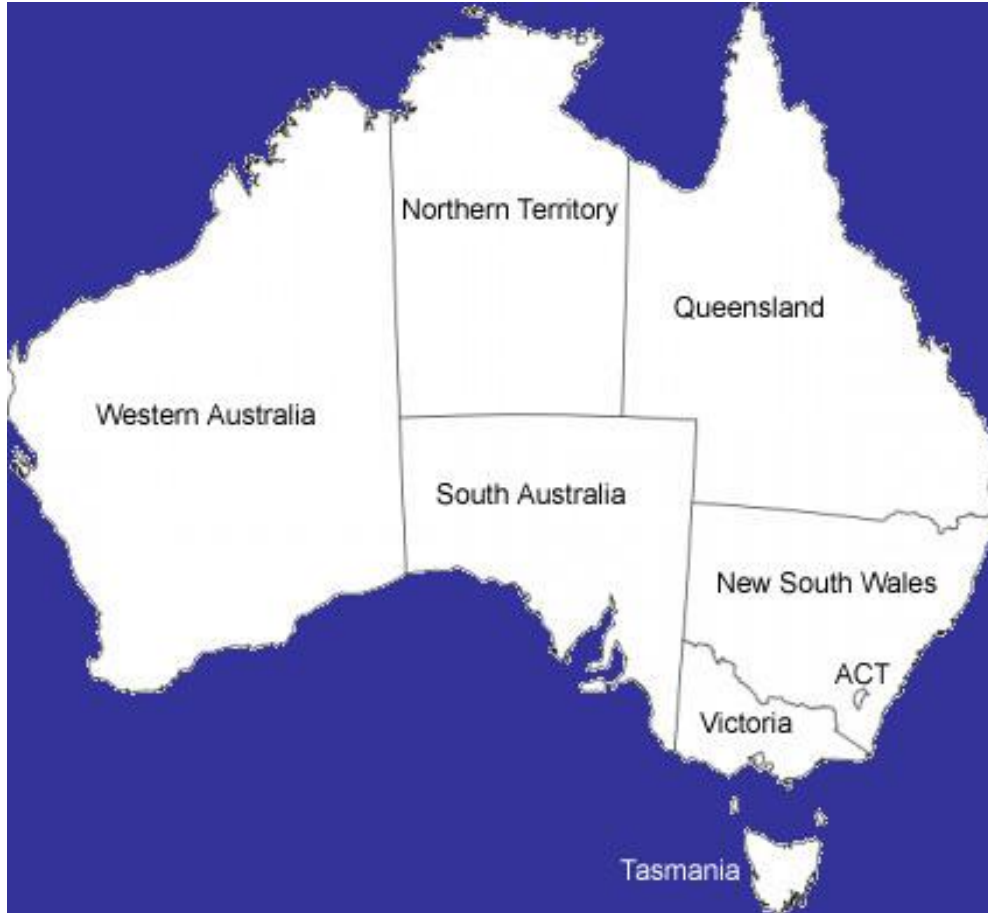
# Key implications for lighting in NSW

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- Ausgrid now owns 250,000+ street lights
- Amalgamations, corporatisation and privatisation resulted in progressive loss of control of street service by councils
- Councils remain the road authority but without a clear basis of service:
  - No contracts
  - No regulation governing minimum service levels
  - Non-binding public lighting code
  - No meaningful control over technology, maintenance or service levels







# Street lighting in WA

Three differences to NSW:

1. Do not have same history of county councils
2. State-controlled electricity network from 1945 (eg. much earlier than NSW)
3. 30 years of commendable work in undergrounding

# ....but a LOT more similarities

- Councils are the road authority but without a clear basis of service:
  - No robust contracts
  - No regulation governing minimum service levels
  - No meaningful control over lighting technology, maintenance or service levels
- Big uncontrolled source of greenhouse gas emissions (40-50%)
- Huge cost increases (WALGA reported 100%+ since 2007/08)
- Councils seeking more transparent and competitive tariffs
- Councils exploring contestability and access frameworks
- Wanting more up to date technologies and bulk rollouts of these



# Seemingly endless frustration.....



but you are not alone!



## Guest Editorial: PSC should require energy-efficient street lights

By: RUSS DOTY | April 25, 2014

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Since early 2009, Los Angeles has installed 147,704 Dark Sky Association-approved LED street lights. That created a 63.3 percent reduction in street lighting energy use and \$7.7 million in annual savings.

During that time, NorthWestern Energy fought petitions to the Montana Public Service Commission seeking energy-use reductions. Our current petition provides a way to pay for the LED retrofit while also cutting taxes and energy rates.

We ask the PSC to eliminate an "ownership" overcharge. It is costing Montanans more than \$2.1 million a year. We also seek a refund of approximately \$25 million in past overcharges. That's more than enough money to implement energy-efficient LED technology.

NorthWestern Energy moved to strike much written, under-oath testimony that we've pre-filed in the case. Some is by Seattle City Light's Edward Smalley, former director of the Department of Energy's Municipal

### LAST BEST BLOG

#### Minnesota Avenue's Oasis sign comes down



We reported a couple of weeks ago that the old Oasis Bar sign on Minnesota Avenue had been sold to a local, private collector.

#### Daines introduces bill he opposes



Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., who has been criticized for his silence on healthcare reforms, took to the Senate floor Thursday to thrust a fresh new proposal into the Senate debate: Medicare for all.

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# Frank discussion needed

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1. Poor alignment of interests must be addressed
2. Lack of clear governance framework untenable
3. Pressure will continue to build if ignored

**Remember, this is not unique to WA**

**You have friends to learn from and to discuss the issue with in other jurisdictions**



# Two main solutions

1. Council-managed model of street lighting
2. New basis of street lighting service by working with utility



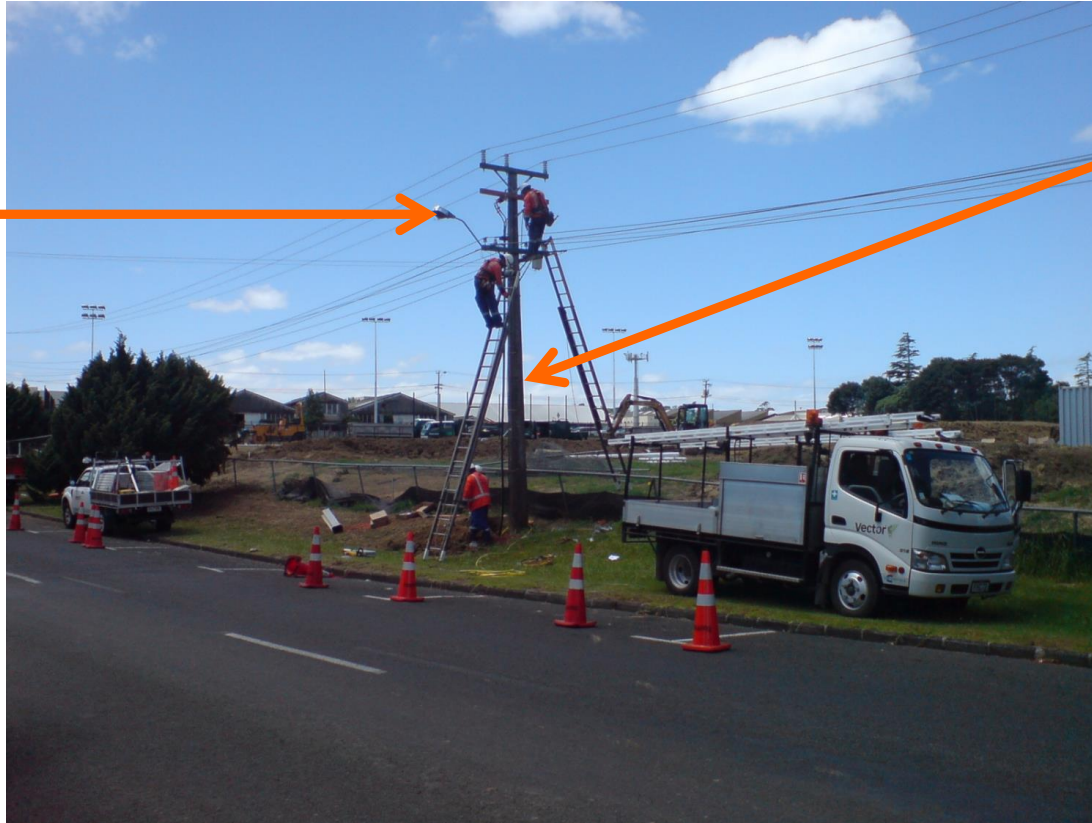
# Council-managed model

1. Requires access rights to poles on reasonable terms
2. Contestability framework needed to ensure safety
3. Useful precedent elsewhere
  - Majority of world's street lighting is managed by local councils and other road authorities
  - New Zealand, UK, most of Europe and half of North America



# Council-managed model

Auckland  
Council  
luminaire  
& bracket



Utility  
power  
pole



# SSROC Street Lighting Improvement Program

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- Working primarily to improve utility-owned model
- Now 30 councils (incl non-SSROC)
- 95% of Ausgrid lighting & 40% of NSW lighting

## Priorities

1. **Pricing Oversight** – Advocate for councils in AER pricing reviews
2. **Improved Governance** – Advocacy for binding service regulation
3. **Improved Technology** – Negotiating accelerated replacement & new trials
4. **Accessing Funding** – To help accelerated replacements



# SSROC SLI Program wins

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- 87,000+ LEDs + CFLs + some advanced power supplies on main roads saving councils ~\$2.5m/yr
- LEDs as default on residential roads from 2013
  - 33,000 to date going really well
  - Currently negotiating up to 101,000 more under accelerated program
  - Intermediate roads now LED and trials underway for main roads
- Even before accelerated replacements, energy use now declining by about 2.5% per year due to natural attrition



# SSROC SLI Program wins

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- **NSW Public Lighting Code**...now working to improve it and make it mandatory
- Reduced pricing claims by **\$20m+** in each of the last three pricing reviews

.....great progress by working together but lots more work to do



# Strength in working together

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- Councils should continue to work together on street lighting
- Offers negotiating clarity and strength
- Offers scale
- Reduces costs for councils in a highly specialised area
- Strong precedent
  - IPWEA has identified 11 regional street lighting initiatives around Australia
  - Similar overseas examples in Ontario, Connecticut and Massachusetts where councils are working together on large regional upgrades



A nighttime photograph of a quiet street or park path. The path is illuminated by a series of tall, slender streetlights that cast a warm, golden glow. The trees lining the path are dark and silhouetted against the twilight sky. In the distance, a few small figures of people can be seen walking on the path. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

**Thank you**