

1.3.06

January 2006 Heatwave Inquiry
Essential Services Commission of South Australia
GPO Box 2605, ADELAIDE, SA 5001

I wish to make a submission to the Inquiry into the ETSA Utilities' Network Performance & Customer Response January 2006, under the Terms of Reference Section 2.6, namely:

Make recommendations with regard to any changes that could be made to the regulatory framework to better protect South Australian consumer interests, including appropriate incentives and penalties.

I believe holding ETSA solely responsible for the January power failures is akin to shooting the messenger, rather than addressing the real issue.

ETSA continues to face ever-increasing demands on power supply when, to conform to the realities and limitations of the 21st century, demands should be decreasing.

One significant cause of this anomaly is that many local councils, like my own here in Mitcham, continue to approve the construction of energy-inefficient dwellings. An example of this is the recently-built group of houses in Kinross Avenue, Lower Mitcham, that are so poorly designed they require three-phase air conditioning to make them liveable.

I believe the State Government should be legislating to compel local councils to enforce energy efficiency in *all* new building construction. On the other hand, if people still opt for energy-inefficient designs in favour of appearance, then they should have the right to do so, *but only if the building is fitted with the means for solar electricity generation* to mitigate the excess power demands.

Additionally, I also believe the State Government should be pressurising the Federal Government to provide more realistic financial incentives for *any* owners to install solar energy panels.

Such moves would not ameliorate power failures after nightfall, but they would significantly reduce overall demand on power generation.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter E Hornsby