

I understand there is such a thing as ABC cabling. Instead of lopping many branches off, thereby making the tree lob-sided, sliced in the middle or literally left as a stump, this cabling should be used. If cost is the reason Energy Australia does not use this option, then Council should be given the option to pay.

I have been a customer of Energy Australia for around 30 years. In my area, rival energy providers door knock on a regular basis offering seemingly great deals to switch to them. I do not think it will be too long before consumers will take this route to protest Energy Australia's routine hacking and destruction of suburban trees.

I ask that Energy Australia make the decision to care for our suburban trees, that you are conservative in the amount of branches you remove and in the case of tall trees, use ABC cabling or other non-destructive methods to save these historical and beautiful trees for future generations. Once a tree has been severely hacked, it takes many years for the tree to regain its beauty and its life is potentially shortened due to stress and the opportunistic invasion of bacteria and insects. Chopping down trees should be only done when all other avenues have been exhausted. Community consultation should be a matter of course when making these decisions.

I also ask that you do not remove the Plane Tree on Marrickville Road, but rather, move the street light.

I would appreciate a reply in writing. Many thanks for your time.

Yours faithfully,
Jacqueline Yetzotis

Energy Australia
Tree Trimming – Complaints
Sydney General Post Office
GPO Box 4009
SYDNEY NSW 2001

29 July 2009

Dear Energy Australia,

RE: THE CUTTING DOWN OF 4 ELM TREES AND 9 PALM TREES IN THE
MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL AREA & THE FUTURE OF THE PLANE TREE ON
MARRICKVILLE ROAD

It was reported recently by the local papers that Energy Australia cut down 14 trees because they were too tall and could potentially affect street cabling. The stumps were left for Marrickville Council to remove.

It is the opinion of many others and myself that this action was deplorable as is Energy Australia's approach to suburban street trees in general. One only need drive around Marrickville Council area to see the routine and highly visible damage done to our local trees. For example, on Excelsior Parade old historical trees have been made into stumps with a few spindly branches, while the same type of tree, planted at the same time further down the Parade are tall, bushy and healthy. The streetscape is extremely different at each end of the Parade. Other trees such as several old Hills Figs on Carrington Road have been literally cut in half. These are just two examples of a common practice by Energy Australia.

I know from personal experience that your workers do not just keep to lopping branches either side of aerial cables. The Bottle Brush trees on my street had all their thin pendulous branches clipped several feet back. When I approached the worker and asked him not to do it, he said, "people's heads." He continued his work and eight years later, the trees have only re-grown about half the length. You will be aware that the pendulous branches on Bottle Brushes are less than half a centimeter thick and this is where the flowers are which provide food for native birds. These branches are soft and it is literally impossible to hurt yourself if you walk into them. The offending branches were not at car level, not were they over the footpath. They were also metres away from cabling. One day's work done by Energy Australia and my street looks ugly for eight years now. Is this reasonable?

The impact of Energy Australia's practices is devastating, not only to trees, but to visual beauty, bird life and property values. You will also be aware that trees are essential to the management of Climate Change. I think until we know exactly what is happening in this arena, all existing trees should be managed responsibly and should only be removed in extreme cases and when there is no alternative option.