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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### GLS LAMP LEGISLATION CHANGES.

The National Government's move to abandon plans to introduce legislation that would effectively ban the use of the common household lamp is disappointing, and flies in the face of internationally recognised good energy management practices. New Zealand is now out of step with its largest trading partner, Australia, which is continuing with plans to adopt similar legislation later this year.

It means that the household lamps presently available will continue to be so despite the fact that they are, in most circumstances, heavy consumers of electricity. The low efficiency of these lamps is such that that the equivalent performance of any other appliance would not be tolerated.

Nearly all developed countries have legislation in the pipeline that will, over the next few years, restrict or ban the use of GLS lamps, thereby reducing their country's power costs. Some States in the USA already have such legislation in place, and are benefiting from the resultant reduction in electrical loadings on their electricity distribution networks and, just as importantly, household power accounts. Had the legislation stayed in place the New Zealand Government would have effectively removed the requirement for a medium sized power station on the North Island in the next few years, with all its attendant costs, both financial and environmental.

Major lamp manufacturers throughout the world are gearing up for increasing sales of the more efficient High Efficiency GLS Lamps (HE GLS) and Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and reducing manufacturing capacity for the old style GLS Lamps. This is eventually going to have an impact on the availability and costs of quality GLS lamps, and could lead to the deterioration of the quality of lamps available in New Zealand.

Council believes the National Government's decision to halt the progress of the legislation was short sighted and more politically motivated than it should have been under the present circumstances.

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