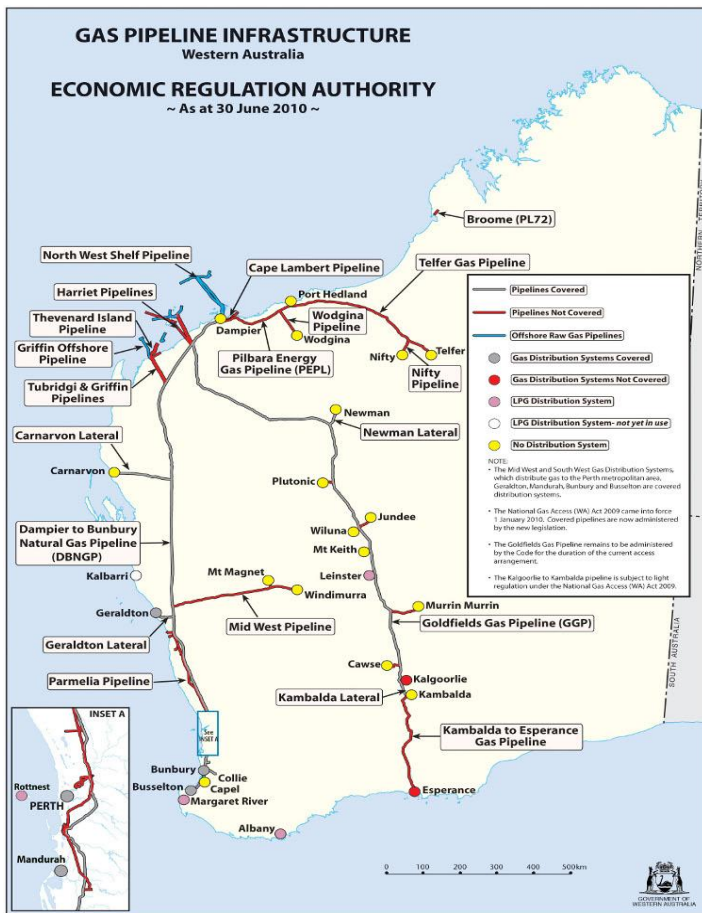


Gas Access Arrangement Revision Process – The Basics

What is the guideline about?

The Economic Regulation Authority (**Authority**) is responsible for regulating third party access to “covered” (i.e. regulated) pipelines in Western Australia. This includes approving access arrangements, ring fencing and associate contracts. The Authority’s responsibilities in this area are prescribed under the *National Gas Access (WA) Act 2009 (NGL(WA))* and the *National Gas Rules (NGR)*.

There are currently three regulated pipelines in Western Australia: the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline (**DBNGP**), the Goldfields Gas Pipeline (**GGP**) and the Mid-West and South-West Gas Distribution System (**GDS**).



The Gas Access Arrangement Guideline (**Guideline**) provides an overview of the rules, requirements and processes applying to the regulation of access arrangements of regulated gas transmission and distribution pipelines in Western Australia. The Guideline also explains in detail how the Authority proposes to handle and assess confidential material submitted during an access arrangement review.

The Authority does not intend for the Guideline to be read as a substitute for the relevant statutory provisions. All interested parties should still refer to the NGL(WA) and NGR to understand the provisions relating to access arrangements.

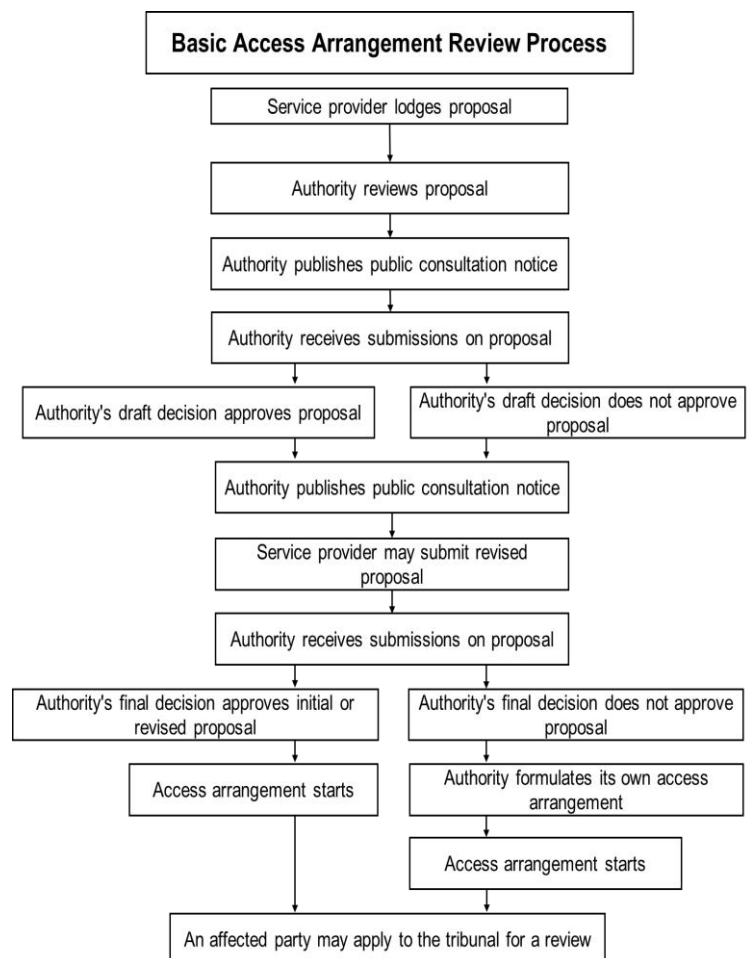
What is an access arrangement?

Access arrangements provide the terms and conditions under which third party users can access the regulated pipelines to transport and receive gas. The service provider must submit an access arrangement revision proposal (**access arrangement proposal**) on or before the review submission dates of an applicable access arrangement. This is approximately once every five years.

The Authority will be reviewing access arrangement proposals from all three regulated pipeline service providers in 2014 – 2015. The current service providers and access arrangement lodgement dates are:

- DBNGP – owned by DBNGP (WA) Nominees Pty Ltd and operated by DBNGP (WA) Transmission Pty Limited (**DBP**) – lodgement date 1 January 2015.
- GGP – jointly owned by the APA Group and Alinta Energy Group through the Goldfields Gas Transmission Pty Ltd (**GGT**) – lodgement date 16 June 2014.
- GDS – owned and operated by ATCO Gas Australia Pty Ltd (**ATCO**) – lodgement date 17 March 2014.

What are the stages in an access arrangement review?



Service Provider Lodges Proposal

The access arrangement review period begins when the service provider submits the access arrangement proposal to the Authority. The access arrangement proposal needs to be submitted on or before the review submission date specified in the current access arrangement.

Public Consultation Begins

Once the Authority has reviewed the access arrangement proposal and finds it to be complete, the Authority will publish it along with a notice inviting stakeholders and other interested parties to make written submissions to the Authority with respect to the access arrangement proposal. The Authority will generally publish an issues paper to assist interested parties in making submissions on the access arrangement proposal.

Draft Decision

After the Authority has considered the access arrangement proposal and any public submissions it has received within the deadline, it will make a draft decision on whether to approve the access arrangement proposal in its current form. Regardless of whether the Authority approves the access arrangement proposal or not, it will still invite stakeholders and other interested parties to make written submissions with respect to its draft decision and any revised access arrangement proposal from the service provider (if one is required).

Final Decision

After the Authority has considered any new public submissions and the revised access arrangement proposal (if applicable), it will make a final decision on whether to approve or refuse to approve the access arrangement proposal, or the revised access arrangement proposal (if one was required).

Commencement of New Access Arrangement

If the Authority approves the access arrangement proposal in its final decision, the new access arrangement will take effect on a date fixed in the final decision or, if no date is fixed, 10 business days after the final decision is published.

Authority Approved Access Arrangement

If the Authority's decision was to refuse to approve the access arrangement proposal, the Authority will then propose a suitable access arrangement or revisions to the access arrangement. In this situation, the Authority may invite public submissions on its proposal, but is under no obligation to do so. The new access arrangement will take effect on a date fixed in the determination, or if no date is fixed, 10 business days after the determination is published.

Decision Review

Should any party believe that they have been affected by the decisions made by the Authority, the NGL(WA) and NGR allow the parties to apply for a review of the merits of reviewable regulatory decisions.

How does this affect the public?

Transmission and distribution costs contribute around 40% to the total cost of gas that is used in a typical home or business in Western Australia. Accordingly, the Authority's review of regulated gas transmission and distribution prices is important to retail prices. Also, any changes to the terms and conditions specified in the access arrangement may ultimately affect customers in the prices they pay and the service they receive.

How can the public contribute to the review?

As mentioned above, the Authority invites stakeholders and other interested parties to make written submissions during certain stages of the access arrangement review period. The Authority publishes these invitations on its website and sends email alerts to interested parties that have subscribed to these alerts. To subscribe to receive email alerts from the Authority, click the following link below:

- <http://www.erawa.com.au/subscribe>

Confidentiality

All submissions from interested parties will be treated as being in the public domain and placed on the Authority's website. Where an interested party wishes to make a confidentiality claim, it should provide a confidential and public version of the document.

Any claim of confidentiality will be considered in accordance with the relevant provisions under the NGR and NGL(WA). Following this, the Authority will then decide whether to publish the confidential material.

The Authority has introduced a new confidentiality process into its Guideline which provides clarity and certainty as to how information providers submit confidential information and how the Authority assesses the validity of confidentiality claims. To expedite the assessment process, the Authority has introduced a confidentiality template for information providers to complete if the submission contains any confidential material that the provider wants to protect.

More information

The [Gas Access Arrangement Guideline](#) is available at the Authority's website.

Information about the regulated pipelines is also available via the following links:

- [Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline](#)
- [Goldfields Gas Pipeline](#)
- [Mid-West and South-West Gas Distribution System](#)

For information about the other roles and responsibilities that the Authority has, please visit the ERA's website:

- <http://www.erawa.com.au/>