

Mr Tyson Self  
Assistant Director, Gas Access  
Economic Regulatory Authority  
Level 4, Albert Facey House  
469 Wellington Street  
Perth WA  
6000  
11th January 2015

Dear Tyson,

Re: Draft decision – Mid West & South West Gas Distribution Systems – Access Arrangement  
2014/2019

Rinnai Australia would like to comment on the Economic Regulatory Authority's draft decision regarding revised access arrangements.

Rinnai Australia is a leading manufacturer of Heating & Hot Water Appliances, and have also recently entered into the cooling industry, with the acquisition of a leading ducted heating & cooling company.

It is our view that the October 14<sup>th</sup> (2014) draft ruling will negatively affect ATCO Gas Australia's ability to reticulate gas through new housing estates.

This puts in jeopardy the future of gas reticulation in all new housing developments, and in doing so will greatly reduce the consumer's options when it comes to selecting appliances for their new home. Importantly, gas appliances have superior energy ratings over electrical appliances, and also produce less greenhouse gases when operating.

Maintaining housing affordability is also important, and Gas Hot Water systems have a lower "up front" cost when compared to other alternative energy efficient hot water products ie; Solar Hot Water. If demand for natural gas in new housing estates remains high into the future, and the reticulation has to be funded from alternative sources, this cost no doubt will ultimately be passed on to the end consumer, further reducing housing affordability.

A review of the draft decision is recommended, to insure new home purchases continue to have access to low cost, environmentally friendly products, with attractive energy ratings.

Regards

Steve Pietersen

State Sales Manager – Rinnai WA