



Media Statement

7 July 2025

Dampier Bunbury Pipeline draft decision

The Economic Regulation Authority has published its draft decision for the access arrangement for the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline, which is one of the largest capacity natural gas transmission pipelines in Australia.

The Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline (DBNGP) takes gas from the major producers in the North-West down the coast to Perth and Bunbury, supplying gas-fired electricity generators and major industry, and connecting to ATCO's distribution network to supply households across the South-West.

The DBNGP is operated by Dampier Bunbury Pipeline (DBP), a subsidiary of the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group.

Under the ERA's draft decision, the average tariff would increase by 33 per cent (in real terms) on 1 January 2026. This is driven largely by inflation and a higher rate of return. The ERA has carefully scrutinised DBP's proposed expenditure on the pipeline, cutting it by \$152.8 million, which has helped to mitigate further tariff increases.

The ERA invites stakeholder feedback on its draft decision, and on DBP's revised proposal once received. The ERA expects to publish its final decision in December 2025.

The ERA's draft decision is [available on our website](#).

Comments attributed to ERA Chair Steve Edwell:

"DBP's proposal assumes a modest decline in gas use over the next five years, but a significant increase in investment in the pipeline."

"We have carefully scrutinised DBP's proposed expenditure and have determined that \$152.8 million of the proposal is not prudent or efficient."

"The higher cost environment, compared to when the DBNGP access arrangement was last assessed, means that some tariff increases are unavoidable."

Background

The ERA regulates access to three gas pipeline networks in Western Australia. Every five years, those pipeline operators submit an access arrangement proposal to the ERA for approval.

DBP submitted its proposal on 2 January 2025, for the access period 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030.

An access arrangement sets out the terms and conditions, including prices, under which third-party users like gas retailers and large mining operators can access the network to transport and receive gas.

About the ERA

The ERA is Western Australia's independent economic regulator. We aim to benefit all Western Australians by promoting strong economic outcomes through effective regulation and decision making. We strive to make sure current and future consumers pay no more than necessary for safe and reliable utilities.

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