

24 August 2001

Dr Ken Michael
Gas Pipeline Access Regulator
WA Office of Gas Access Regulation
GPO Box 8469
Perth Business Centre, WA 6849

Dear Dr Michael

**DRAFT DECISION – DAMPIER TO BUNBURY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE
(DBNGP)**

The Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. submits the following comment on the Draft decision on transmission tariffs for the DBNGP.

A study and analysis of potential industrial development projects was recently undertaken by the Great Southern Development Commission. The study found that the extension of the pipeline to Albany could generate over \$2.6 billion dollars in new revenue for the state over the next 20 years. This would result in great gains in employment in an area strongly affected by adverse agricultural conditions.

Planned and current development projects in the Great Southern rely on a plentiful, reliable and competitive supply of energy. Fletchers International Meat Processing Plant, the expanding plantation forest industry, woodchip mill, canola plant and various agricultural value adding projects support the extension of the natural gas pipeline to the region.

A decision to lower transportation charges will reduce Epic Energy's commercial viability and threaten the proposed extension of the pipeline. The Chamber, on behalf of over 430 members, begs you to carefully consider the impact of the proposed decision on regional economic growth, regional development and regional employment.

Yours faithfully

Jo Hummerston
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER