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Western Australian Independent Gas Pipelines
Access Regulator
Office of Gas Access Regulation
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Monday, September 03, 2001

Attention: Mr. R Pullella

Draft Decision – Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline Access Arrangement

Cramer and Neill Refrigeration is medium size service and contracting business located in the Midwest City of Geraldton, and has been providing services to the DBNGP for over ten years.

As a regional business we are concerned over the potential impact that your recent draft decision will have on our business, and indeed on other support businesses involved with Epic Energy and the safe and productive maintenance of the DBNGP. The commercial viability of the gas supply business for Epic has ramifications far beyond the shareholders of Epic, and I urge you to give full consideration to the entire value chain that stand to be affected by your decision. The immediate economic impact is only the tip of the iceberg if in the long term Western Australia sees a decline in exploration and production investment.

As an independent regulator, you will obviously consider the environmental as well as economical benefits that have arisen from the ready access to natural gas for both the domestic and industrial markets. It would be a regressive step to impose unreasonable tariffs which ultimately force the supplier to operate in a financially stressful trading position, and thus jeopardise the future success of this energy source.

As a medium size business, I openly declare a vested interest in challenging this draft decision, however I do so with a long term view point for not only the profitability of the business, and the security of those people employed, but also for the regional communities which benefit greatly from involvement with companies such as Epic. I urge you to reconsider the content of your draft before handing down a final decision.

Yours truly,

Tony Emmott
General Manager