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16 August 2001

Dr K Michael AM
Western Australian Independent Gas Pipelines
Access Regulator
Office of Gas Regulation
PO Box 8469
PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE WA 6869

Attention Mr R Pullella

Dear Sir,

Draft Decision on the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline Access Arrangement

Gas Measurement Solutions Pty Ltd is a Western Australian privately owned company and is actively engaged in building our product and engineering support services for the gas transportation industry specialising in gas measurement and project engineering / management. One of our major clients is Epic Energy and currently our main focus is on supporting the West Australian gas transmission industry although we do conduct business with other clients throughout Australia and New Zealand.

We are particularly concerned about the recent draft decision by your office to reduce the transportation tariff proposed by Epic Energy on the DBNGP and what affect that will have on the development of regional Australia both in the near term and the longer term. Surely your Terms of Reference as an independent regulator are to consider all community aspects surrounding gas transportation access to one of the State's most valuable assets. Any forced financial stress on organisations associated with the DBNGP will not aid development of the State and will not be in the interests of the community as a whole.

As I am sure you will understand, any Regulatory decision that seriously affects the viability of our company is of great concern to me especially when it may either force closure of our business or force relocation to another State. Despite our commercial interest here we firmly believe we are not alone in our sentiments on this matter. We trust you will take into consideration the interests of the community as a whole and how your decision will affect small business in this State.

My company fully supports Epic Energy's stance in this matter and therefore formally requests you reconsider the implications of your draft decision when making the final decision.

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Downey
Managing Director