

**HON. MURRAY CRIDDLE, MLC**

**MEMBER FOR AGRICULTURAL REGION**

The Office of Gas Access Regulation  
PO Box 8469  
Perth Business Centre 6849

7th August 2001

To whom it may concern

**RE: Draft Regulatory Decision**

On behalf of the Hon Murray Criddle, MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region, I am writing to express the concerns of this office in regards the draft decision handed down recently for comment involving the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline (DBNGP).

As a member of parliament serving the Agricultural Region Mr Criddle is constantly asked how regional development and infrastructure projects are to be enhanced in rural areas. The draft decision given by the regulator in the case of Epic Energy and the natural gas pipeline is an example where the enhancement of regional development is being negatively impacted upon.

As your office would be aware it is extremely difficult to encourage business and the corporate sector to invest in rural and regional areas and the financial constraints and issues faced by companies and individuals are exacerbated by decisions such as this draft regulatory stance relating to the DBNGP.

It is therefore recommended by Mr Criddle that a review of the Regulators' draft decision commence particularly taking into account the attitude of fostering Regional Development for the good of the people in the regional and rural sectors of our state.

The National Party of Western Australia as a whole is also forwarding a submission to your office in regards this issue and Mr Criddle thought it pertinent to electronically add his thoughts.

Mr Criddle looks forward to your response in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Brendin Flanigan  
Electorate Officer to  
The Hon Murray Criddle, MLC  
Member for the Agricultural Region