

NEIL MANSELL TRANSPORT PTY LTD SUBMISSION

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Office of Gas Regulation

P.O. Box 8469

Perth Business Centre 6849

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Dear Sir,

re OFFGAR Draft Decision on the DBNGP Pipeline

Within the pipeline industry our company has achieved the status of being the preferred pipeline haulage contractor for large projects on-shore. We employ 280 people, and own 110 heavy duty prime movers and all the necessary trailer, loading and specialised equipment to support the oil & gas exploration & production industries.

Epic Energy is one of our customers, and they invited us to put forward our view of the draft decision.

Economic development requires and often only occurs following the provision of infrastructure. It has become increasingly difficult for businesses to move the much needed Infrastructure Projects in Australia from the drawing boards through to the construction phase. An outstanding issue is the lack of transparency and consistency by various State Governments in their policy setting, project evaluation, contract awarding and communication processes. The moving of goal posts in favour of vested interests creates unacceptable sovereign risk for investors, who will simply ensure that their money is invested elsewhere.

In the above instance, the short term benefaction of a state government owned entity (Western Power) at the expense of the longer term development of Western Australia is evidence that the draft decision making process was fatally flawed by the conflict of interest.

The draft decision simply needs to be re-visited and corrected. Let's see if an independent regulator can be brave enough to make an independent decision!

Yours faithfully

Neil R. Mansell
Managing Director