

OUR REF : 23.13

27<sup>th</sup> August 2001

Office of Gas Access Regulation,  
PO Box 8469,  
Perth Business Centre,  
**PERTH, W.A. 6849**

Dear Sir,

**RE : DAMPIER TO BUNBURY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE  
GAS RATES**

The Collie Shire Council wishes to submit for your consideration comments it has on the above mentioned subject.

1. The Council supports the tariffs suggested by your Office in your draft decision, that is, Dampier to zone 9 (Perth) 75c/Gj and Dampier to south of Kwinana 85c/Gj.  
There appears to be no concrete evidence of alternative rates being agreed to by either the current State Government or the previous State Government.  
Epic Energy entered into a commercial contract at the time of purchasing the gas pipe line and it would be reasonable to assume that the question of future tariffs would have been decided at that time. To have not done so is the fault of the company and they cannot now expect the gas owners, and others, to "prop-up" their business situation;
2. The tariffs currently being suggested by your office only support the fact that gas, as much as other fuel sources, operates within a volatile World market and both owners and transporters of gas must not expect the general community to compensate them for their own business decisions;
3. The differentials between what Epic Energy believes transportation costs ought to be and what your Office is suggesting are too large and quite frankly they are not imposts which business and the general community should be expected to bear.

Thank you for the opportunity of being able to make comment on the subject.

Yours faithfully,



Ian Miffling,  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

