

NOTICE

RELEASE OF FINAL REPORT FOR THE REVIEW OF THE GAS MARKETING CODE OF CONDUCT 2004

The Economic Regulation Authority has endorsed the Gas Marketing Code Consultative Committee's (GMCCC) final report on the Review of the Gas Marketing Code of Conduct 2004.

In its final report to the Authority, the GMCCC recommended that:

- the Authority repeal the Gas Marketing Code of Conduct 2004;
- a Gas Marketing Standard be created and become a condition of Gas Trading Licences;
- a Guide to Consumer Protection for Gas Marketing be created and placed on the Authority's web site; and
- the Authority establish a committee to discuss development of an Energy Code of Conduct for both gas and electricity licensees.

Implementation

As the Authority is currently reviewing the Gas Trading Licences, the Gas Marketing Standard will be incorporated into these licences as part of the review process. The Authority plans to repeal the Code once the review process is completed.

A guide to Consumer Protection for Gas Marketing will be placed on the Authority's web site and the Authority will write to licensees asking them to place a copy on their web sites.

In regard to a future Energy Code of Conduct, the Authority is currently developing an appropriate strategy to facilitate future discussion on such a code.

Background

The Code began operating on 31 May 2004 with the implementation of Gas Full Retail Contestability in Western Australia. The Code defined standards of conduct in the marketing of gas to customers and was designed to regulate and guide the conduct of gas trading licensees and their marketers.

The Authority is responsible for administering Part 2C of the *Energy Coordination Act 1994* (Code of Conduct for the Marketing of Gas to Small Use Customers). The Act provided for the Authority to establish a committee to advise it on matters relating to the Code, which resulted in the GMCCC being set up.

Its current membership is:

Chairman	Russell Dumas (Authority)
Executive Officer	Michael Styles (Authority)
Members	Gary Newcombe (Department of Consumer & Employment Protection)
	Jessica Shaw (Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA)
	Lisa Baker (WA Council of Social Services)
	Ray Myles (Alinta Sales Pty Ltd)
	Brendan McColl (Wesfarmers Kleenheat Gas Pty Ltd)
	Lawrence Teo (WorleyParsons Asset Management Pty Ltd)

Apart from advising the Authority on matters relating to the Code, one of the Committee's principal functions is to review the Code at intervals set out in the Act. The first review was required as soon as practicable after the Code's first anniversary.

On 3 January 2006, the Committee released a principles paper detailing how it proposed to carry out the review. This included the principles upon which the review would be based and the proposed review process. The submissions received from interested persons on the principles paper supported the Committee's proposed approach.

A draft report released by the Committee on 11 August 2006 outlined the submissions received on the principles paper, the outcome of a legal review of the Code and the approach recommended by the Committee. The submissions received from interested persons on the draft report supported the Committee's recommended approach.

A copy of the GMCCC's final report and a copy of the Authority's decision endorsing this report are available from the Authority's [web site](#). The Code is available from the State Law Publisher's [web site](#).

For information contact:

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