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Media Release

The Acting Independent Gas Pipelines Access Regulator, Dr Ken Michael, is pleased that the Supreme Court, in handing down its decision today on Epic Energy's application for prerogative relief, did not consider it necessary to quash the Draft Decision for the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline proposed Access Arrangement, which would have extended the time necessary for the Regulator's assessment and ultimate decision. Dr Michael is also pleased that the Court found that the Regulator's process in making the Draft Decision afforded procedural fairness to Epic Energy.

The Supreme Court did not grant Epic Energy the prerogative relief it sought. However, it provided the Regulator with guidance on a number of difficult issues related to the construction of the National Gas Pipelines Access Code.

As Dr Michael has previously indicated in his on-going assessment of the proposed Access Arrangement, he will act in accordance with the decision of the Court and will issue a Final Decision after due consideration of all the matters raised by the Court.

In this respect, Dr Michael proposes to prepare an Information Paper outlining actions undertaken since the Draft Decision was issued offering the applicants and other affected parties a reasonable time to make further submissions to assist in preparing a Final Decision. Dr Michael is confident that this process will enable the interests of the applicants and other affected parties to be adequately protected in the course of the assessment and approval process under the Code.

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