

Energy Markets Reform Forum
GPO Box 21 00
Sydney NSW 2001
Phone: 02 9262 5399

26th March 2003

Ms Fiona Towers
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Of New South Wales
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office
SYDNEY NSW 1230

fiona_towers@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Towers

AGLGN's Proposal To Defer Access Arrangements Review

The Energy Markets Reform Forum (EMRF) understands that AGLGN is seeking a delay in the scheduled IPART review of its access arrangements for 2004-2009. We understand that the application for a delay is because of a number of reasons, including especially, the proposal for a review of the National Gas Code.

The Energy Markets Reform Forum represents OneSteel, BHP Steel, INCITEC, Tomago Aluminium, Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri, BHP Billiton, AMCOR and Visy Paper. Individual members of the Forum have already written to IPART opposing any delay in IPART commencing its process involving the scheduled access review.

The EMRF, as a group, is opposed to any delay. The proposed review of the National Gas Code has been spoken about for quite some time and there is still no information available as to its terms of reference, its start date and the time frame of the review. Moreover, by the time the review processes (involving the Gas Code) are completed (a draft report, a final report, and completion of consideration by the Treasurer and Jurisdictions, including proposed legislative changes across all Parliaments) some considerable time would have passed, and could be as long as two years. Consequently, any access review delay of up of two years would be unacceptable. It is also not clear why AGLGN considers that a six months' delay would be sufficient to allow the whole Gas Code review to be completed. We are not convinced of any benefit arising from any delay and strongly disagree with the AGLGN application

Yours sincerely,

Tanya Brown

for: Ron Hardwick
Acting Chairman, Energy Markets Reform forum