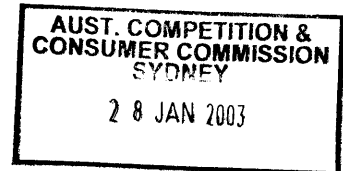




Shire of  
**Gunnedah**  
Land of Opportunity



Ms Nicole Moffatt  
Senior Analyst  
Regulatory Affairs - Gas  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3648  
SYDNEY NSW 1044

FILE No:
DOC:
MARS/PRISM:

22 January 2003

Dear Ms Moffatt

**Re: Natural Gas supply to the Central Ranges Region of NSW**

The Central Ranges Natural Gas and Telecommunications Association Inc. is working with your Officers to advance the provision of a much needed resource in our area – natural gas.

This organisation has been working tirelessly for almost six years to bring about the urgently needed supply of natural gas to the businesses and residents of this region. This environmentally friendly, economic energy source is vital to the region and will ensure increased competition between energy sources.

Numerous surveys and community consultation days conducted over the years have indicated wide ranging community support for the project.

Timing for approvals is becoming critical due to the demands of a potential ethanol plant development to be located in Gunnedah. The loss of this plant would destroy the six years of work by the community based Association and may result in the project being deferred indefinitely. I cannot stress enough how important natural gas is to our community and would like to express our full support for the Central Ranges Natural Gas and Telecommunications Association in their efforts to achieve this objective.

Please do what you can to ensure the requirements for the competitive tender, pricing and licensing are facilitated as smoothly and quickly as possible.

This project has my complete support.

Yours faithfully,

RG Swain  
MAYOR

Contact: Chris Ryan (02) 6740 2147

Cc: Deborah Walker – Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.