



DECISION AND STATEMENT OF REASONS

Decision

In response to a request from Jemena Gas Networks (NSW) Ltd (Jemena), the AER grants an extension of time for Jemena to submit its consolidated access arrangement revision proposal for the NSW gas network for the period 2010 to 2015. The access arrangement revision proposal submission is now due on or before **9.00 am A.E.S.T. on Wednesday 26 August 2009**.

The AER grants this extension under r. 52(3) of the National Gas Rules, which allows the AER to extend the period for submitting an access arrangement proposal by a period of up to two months.

Statement of Reasons

The AER grants the extension:

- to provide certainty to Jemena so that it may provide a complete and compliant access arrangement revision proposal after the NCC reclassification decision is made
- to reduce the regulatory burden for Jemena, so that the access arrangement revision proposal it submits takes into consideration any implications arising from the NCC reclassification decision

The AER notes that reference tariffs in force at the end of the current access arrangement, which expires on 30 June 2010, will remain fixed until the new access arrangement commences.

Background to the extension request

On 16 April 2009 Jemena wrote to the AER, requesting an extension of the due date for its access arrangements by two months (the maximum possible under the NGL). The access arrangement proposal submission was scheduled to be submitted on 30 June 2009. The AER consulted on the extension request from 11 May 2009 to 22 May 2009. No submissions were received.

Jemena is seeking an extension while it awaits the outcome of its application to the NCC for reclassification of its trunk infrastructure from transmission to distribution pipelines. Although the NCC will release a draft decision on the reclassification application in the week beginning 1 June 2009, the latest possible date for release of the NCC final decision is 24 August 2009.

A copy of Jemena's letter to the AER can be found at www.aer.gov.au.