

Dear Sir/Madam

**Resolution of disputes under the National Gas Code – release of Draft Guideline**

Enclosed is a copy of *Resolution of transmission pipeline access disputes under the gas code – draft guideline*. The draft guideline has been prepared following consideration of responses to a consultation paper circulated in November 2003.

The draft guideline describes processes for dispute notification, handling of confidentiality claims, format and content of experts' reports, the holding of joint hearings and publication of arbitration determinations. It also proposes to introduce case management teams for arbitrations, and places emphasis on the use of alternative means of dispute resolution such as third party mediation and the referral of particular issues to expert determination. The guideline is based on the processes set out in the Gas Pipelines Access Law and the National Third Party Access Code for Natural Gas Pipeline Systems.

Parties are invited to provide comments on the draft guideline, which the Commission will take into account when finalising the guideline.

The Commission prefers that all written submissions be publicly available to foster an informed, transparent and robust consultative process. Accordingly, submissions will be treated as public documents unless otherwise requested. Parties wishing to submit confidential information are asked to provide confidential and non-confidential versions of their submission. All non-confidential submissions will be placed on the Commission's website <http://www.accc.gov.au>.

Submissions should be addressed to:

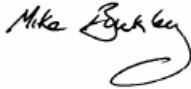
Mr David Hatfield  
Director, Gas Group  
Regulatory Affairs Division  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
PO Box 1199  
Dickson ACT 2602

Persons making submissions are requested to also provide an electronic copy of the submission to [david.hatfield@acc.gov.au](mailto:david.hatfield@acc.gov.au).

Submissions should be made to the Commission by **no later than 5.00pm, Friday 18 June 2004**.

Please direct any enquiries about the draft guideline, or about making submissions, to David Hatfield on (02) 6243 1266.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mike Buckley  
General Manager  
Regulatory Affairs – Gas

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