

ACCC Public Forum Transend Revenue Cap – Draft Decision 17 October 2003 Hydro Tasmania's Presentation



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The fundamentals of the Draft Decision appear to provide a reasonable outcome from Hydro Tasmania's perspective

Focus should now be on delivering value in terms of pricing and service



Capex & opex appear reasonable... Hydro Tasm

Capex

- Capex allowance appears to provide for renewal & development capex needs
- Reduction from Application is unlikely to significantly delay projects

Opex

• Sound basis for development of opex forecast



But significant pricing impacts...

- Revenue will increase by 60% average per annum
- Significant and immediate impact on customers
- Transend's pricing policy will have the potential to significantly affect individual outcomes



Regulated Service Standards

- Adopted service standard performance targets appear adequate in as far as they go
- Collection of data for additional service standards will allow inclusion at the next reset
- Additional performance measures will improve effectiveness of the current scheme



Alternative Approach to Capex

- Hydro Tasmania sees some merit in the ACCC's proposed approach
- The devil is in the detail. Operational aspects for dedicated assets will need to consider:
 - application to Transend's capex allowance
 - "fair and reasonable" negotiating outcomes with TNSPs
 - procedural aspects of the approach

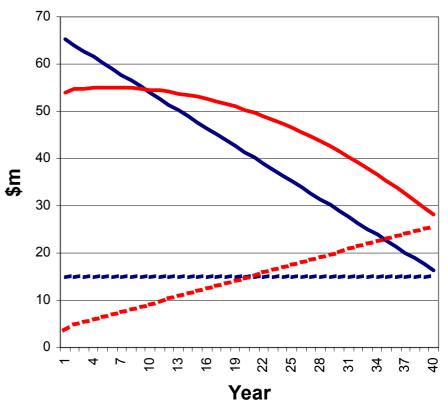
...Focus should now be on delivering value in relation to pricing and service

Competition Depreciation



- Approach in draft SORP
 - also mentioned in Transend and TransGrid
- Pricing impact could be minimised without long term financial impact to Transend
- With rapidly increasing prices, impact can be spread over multiple periods. Recognise:
 - need to bind the ACCC for future resets
 - underlying assumption that future capex and opex plateau

Straight Line Depreciation vs Competition Depreciation





Service Standards Development

- Hydro Tasmania acknowledges ACCCs engagement of industry in development of market based service standards
- In addition to regulated service standards Hydro Tasmania will explore options for tailored enhanced arrangements
- The success or otherwise of these negotiations should inform decisions about the development of regulated *market based service standards*
- Ability for market participants to effectively enter into commercial agreements for network solutions is essential

Conclusion



The Draft Decision seeks to balance service outcomes and financial needs in light of the upcoming challenges for the Tasmanian electricity industry

With the fundamentals of the Draft Decision appearing to provide a reasonable outcome, the focus should now be on achieving value in terms of pricing and service

