

Reference: 18/95900

31 August 2018



Mr Sebastian Roberts
General Manager, Transmission and Gas
Australian Energy Regulator

Via: AERinquiry@aer.gov.au

Dear Mr Roberts

RE: AER Reference 64192 – Australian Gas Networks Mount Barker Proposal

The Mount Barker District Council strongly supports the need for the provision of a natural gas network to service Mount Barker and the surrounding region.

In support of the current proposal from Australian Gas Networks, Council is pleased to submit the following information.

The Mount Barker region continues to experience rapid growth and this is independently forecast to continue for at least the next two decades.

The town of Mount Barker is designated in the South Australian Development Plan (State Government) as the regional centre for the Adelaide Hills and surrounds.

Under existing zoning, Mount Barker will become the second largest city (to Adelaide) in South Australia.

The total forecast growth arising from the 2010 State Government rezoning is an additional 12,000 dwellings and around 31,000 people.

The current actual rate of growth in Mount Barker is around 400 new dwellings per annum and a little over 1,000 new residents per annum.

To facilitate economic development and employment, Mount Barker District Council continues to work with other stakeholders including the Rural City of Murray Bridge, Regional Development Australia (both Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island; and also Murraylands and Riverland), SA Water and the Urban Development Institute of Australia (South Australia).

That work includes the following initiatives:

- To seek approval of the State Government for the re-zoning of 35 hectares of land in Totness (adjacent the town of Mount Barker) for Employment Lands.
- Facilitate infrastructure headworks for 40 hectares of land immediately south of Mount Barker that is already zoned for Light Industrial use.
- Jointly investigate with SA Water, opportunities for the expansion of productive use of Council's recycled water to facilitate new employment and value-add services and industry in Monarto.
- Investigate the retrospective provision of a Council sewer service to the Mount Barker Central Business District which has been zoned to enable higher density development (up to 5 storeys high).

In addition, Council is progressing the following major infrastructure projects:

- Regional Sports Hub (Stage 1 - \$21 million)
- Regional Indoor Aquatic and Leisure Facility (Stage 1 - \$25 - \$30 million)
- Major Upgrade of Council's Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$50 - \$55 million).

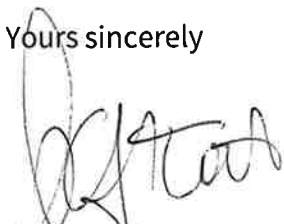
The provision of access to reticulated natural gas is important to the expansion of existing industry and the attraction of new industry to the region.

The provision of this gas infrastructure would deliver significant social, economic and environmental community benefits for both residents and businesses.

In the cool climate of the Mount Barker region, energy demand is higher and hence the community benefits would be increased in relative terms.

If further information is required please contact Brian Clancey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer/General Manager, Infrastructure & Projects telephone (08) 8391 71218 or email bclancey@mountbarker.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Stuart

Chief Executive Officer