



Forum to discuss ACCC draft gas guidelines

The ACCC hosted a forum to discuss the ACCC's draft Regulatory Reporting and Dispute Resolution guidelines at the ACCC's Sydney office on Thursday 23 September 2004. The forum was chaired by Commissioner Ed Willett.

Attendees

Paul Callander (GasNet)

Ed Willett (ACCC)

Roger Brassler (GasNet)

Mike Buckley (ACCC)

Chris Harvey (AGL)

Justin Oliver (ACCC)

Warwick Tudehope (AGL)

Michael Walsh (ACCC)

Paul Johnston (AGL)

Robert Albon (ACCC)

Darren Nelson (EUAA)

Meredith Hooper (ACCC)

Stephen Livens (Alinta)

Keith Lockey (KPMG)

Julie Bucklan-Ball (Alinta)

Outline of forum proceedings

1	<p>Ed Willett (ACCC):</p> <p>Mr Willett welcomed the attendees and discussed the impact of the Productivity Commission report on the guidelines and the purpose of the forum in his opening remarks.</p>
2 & 3	<p>Keith Lockey (KPMG):</p> <p>Mr Lockey provided a detailed presentation on the regulatory reporting guideline and the ACCC's proposed approach, the intent of the regulatory reporting framework and its operation.</p> <p>Discussion during this session also related to the use of auditors, the ACCC's use of regulatory reports, Director sign off requirements, the treatment of regulatory asset base values, the relationship to reference tariffs and the access arrangement assessment process and the application to all covered pipelines regulated by the ACCC.</p>
4 & 5	<p>Mike Buckley (ACCC):</p> <p>Mr Buckley provided an overview of the draft dispute resolution guideline including the ACCC's proposed approach and intent of establishing the guideline.</p>

6	<p>The meeting established the process and timetable going forward to be:</p> <p>Regulatory reporting guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested parties are invited to make further submissions on the draft guideline by Friday 29 October 2004. Comments are specifically requested on coordinating the Annual Regulatory Report with the existing annual Ring Fencing Compliance report; • the ACCC will review the additional submissions and finalise the guideline by Friday 31 December 2004; • service providers are to submit draft Regulatory Accounting Manuals to the ACCC for approval by Friday 1 April 2005. <p>Dispute resolution guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the approach the ACCC would take if notified of a dispute; • Interested parties are invited to make further submissions on the draft document; • Following the announcement of the Ministerial Council on Energy's response to the Productivity Commission Gas Code review the ACCC will finalise the guideline.
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Further submissions

Parties are invited to provide further comments on the draft guidelines. The ACCC will take these into account when finalising the guidelines.

The ACCC 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 ACCC's website <http://www.accc.gov.au>.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Mr Michael Walsh
 Director, Gas Group
 Regulatory Affairs Division
 Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
 GPO Box 3648
 Sydney NSW 2001

Persons making submissions are requested to also provide an electronic copy of the submission to gas@acc.gov.au.

Submissions should be made to the ACCC by no later than 5.00pm, Friday 29 October 2004. Any enquiries about the draft guidelines, or about making submissions, should be directed to Michael Walsh on (02) 9230 9156.