

23rd December, 2015



**Regional
Development**
Australia

MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Dear David,

Re: Gas Supply Upgrades – Murray Bridge

Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland is strongly supportive of upgrades to the gas supplies at Murray Bridge to accommodation economic growth in the region.

It is our understanding that the Australian Energy Regulator has not included the work to upgrade 2km DN 150mm transmission pressure steel main from the Murray Bridge Gate Station to the Murray Bridge township regulator station, despite the pipe operating currently close to its maximum capacity.

The economic growth forecasts for Murray Bridge and the surrounding Murraylands region is significant in the next 10 years. The Rural City of Murray Bridge is expected to have 30,000 residents alone, without the expansion of existing businesses and the attraction of new businesses to the region.

In the last three months alone we have facilitated new business investment into the region in the vicinity of \$45million which we believe will have a strong probability of coming to fruition over the next 12 months. The longer range forecasts also strong as evidenced by the Murraylands Food Alliance which is a group of the 11 largest food producers in our region who are forecasting growth in the next 3 – 5 years of 4.2% compound growth.

We are extremely disappointed that the gas mains up-grade to Murray Bridge is not included in your draft approved works going forward. Any restriction in utility availability such as natural gas will impede our region's economic growth and ability to continue to attract new businesses to the region.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Yours faithfully

Joanne Podoliak
Chief Executive