

9 MAR 2007

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DATE RECEIVED

Australian
Pipeline Trust

Australian Pipeline Ltd
ACN 091 344 704

ARSN 091 678 778

20 March 2007

Mr John Hall
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Mr Hall

Consumer Advisory Committee Charter

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Consumer Advisory Committee Charter. Australian Pipeline Trust (APA) is the owner and operator of the APT Allgas gas network which serves southern Brisbane and the south coast.

APA supports the principle that consumers need an appropriate advocacy body and appropriate protection, and this is particularly important during the transition to a competitive marketplace in Queensland.

In terms of the committee's structure, APA believes that some form of industry expertise is required on the committee, as the committee will require a reasonable level of expertise in order to address the issues which may come before it. If the committee has little energy industry experience it is likely they may not have a fully informed view of potentially complex issues. The industry expertise may be provided by an independent expert.

APA notes that there are already a numerous mechanisms for facilitating consumer advocacy and protecting consumers. These include:

- the new Consumer Advocacy Panel to be established as a constituent, but independent, part of the AEMC under the proposed Australian Energy Market Commission Establishment (Consumer Advocacy Panel) Amendment Bill 2006; and
- the new Queensland Ombudsman arrangements.

APA has concerns that a multiplicity of consumer advisory and advocacy groups and processes may not result in the best outcomes for consumers. APA believes once the transition to FRC is complete, the Queensland Government should review the roles and number of these groups. APA would continue to support those arrangements, such as the new Ombudsman arrangements, which are required for the effective operation of an orderly and efficient market.

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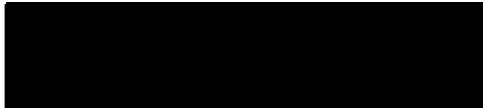


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FRC will bring many advantages for customers, but experience in other jurisdictions has shown there will be transitional issues that need to be addressed on the basis of industry knowledge.

If you would like to discuss this further, please call me on 02 9693 0038.



Stuart Ronan
Regulatory Manager
Australian Pipeline Trust