

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the Gas Supply Act 1996 to require gas reticulators to join a gas industry ombudsman scheme approved by the Minister for Energy and to comply with any decisions of the ombudsman relating to a dispute or complaint.

Currently, gas suppliers are required to be members of the scheme.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day to be appointed by proclamation.

Schedule 1 Amendment of Gas Supply Act 1996

No 38

Schedule 1 [4] makes it a condition of a gas reticulator's authorisation that it must be a member of an approved gas industry ombudsman scheme and that it is bound by, and must comply with, any decision of the ombudsman relating to a dispute or

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complaint between the gas reticulator and a small retail customer. This condition currently applies to gas suppliers' authorisations. Schedule 1 [4] also provides that the Minister may exempt certain authorised gas reticulators from the requirement to join the scheme. Schedule 1 [1]–[3] are consequential amendments.

Schedule 1 [5] provides for the making of savings and transitional regulations consequent on the enactment of the proposed Act.

Schedule 1 [6] inserts a transitional provision that allows a gas industry ombudsman scheme that has already been approved by the Minister for Energy for gas suppliers to be extended to gas reticulators without the need for further approval.