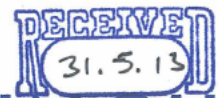


DOWNSTREAM GAS SUPPLY AND AVAILABILITY IN NSW

Organisation: Parkes Shire Council
Name: Cr Kent Boyd
Position: General Manager
Date Received: 31/05/2013



PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

Progress, opportunities and a quality lifestyle for our residents

SMB:861001

Contact Person: Steve Barry

28 May 2013

The Committee Manager
State and Regional Development Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

DOWNSTREAM GAS SUPPLY AND AVAILABILITY IN NSW (INQUIRY)

Council considered a report at the 7 May 2013 meeting on the State and Regional Development Committee's invitation to lodge a submission on the inquiry into downstream gas supply and availability in NSW. It was resolved to lodge a submission in accordance with the Terms of Reference highlighting the importance of access to gas supply for communities close to existing infrastructure such as Peak Hill in Parkes Shire.

The term of reference which is most relevant to Council's concern is:

- (e) possible measures to encourage gas network operators to extend existing distribution networks, including financial incentives of licence obligations, particularly in regional centres that do not have access to reticulated gas.

Peak Hill is a locality of 1150 people with an urban population of 755, on the Newell Highway 48 kilometres north of Parkes. It has the high pressure gas pipeline running past the township but does not have access to low pressure reticulation.

When the high pressure pipeline was initially constructed, Peak Hill was considered not large enough to warrant a conversion facility. At the time Council canvassed for the town to be included with no success due to the limitations of financial returns.

It is considered that this situation aligns exactly with item (e) in the terms of reference. Council considers incentives/obligations as suggested is essential to ensure equality for those towns close to the transmission pipelines, yet denied the access benefits of larger centres.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully

Kent Boyd
GENERAL MANAGER

per: 
Steve Barry
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES