

**Submission
No 23**

DOWNSTREAM GAS SUPPLY AND AVAILABILITY IN NSW

Organisation: Cowra Shire Council
Name: Mrs Clare Taylor
Date Received: 5/06/2013

31 May 2013

The Committee Manager
State and Regional Development Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Inquiry into downstream gas supply and availability in NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the inquiry into downstream gas supply and availability in NSW, as guided by the terms of reference of the inquiry.

Cowra Shire is bisected by a high pressure gas pipeline that forms part of the NSW Distribution Network, currently terminating at Lithgow.

The terms of reference which are most relevant to Council are listed below:

(a) the adequacy of transmission pipeline systems and distribution networks for future downstream gas needs and supply challenges.

Cowra Council response - as an existing stakeholder in the supply of gas to the State, Cowra Council is concerned that adequate gas supplies will continue to be made available to enhance regional development plans in Central NSW. Key threatening processes to achieving this goal are considered to be inadequate controls on the sale of gas supplies to other regions and overseas markets, as well as inadequate planning for growth areas and high consuming land-uses such as mining.

The supply and demands of natural gas must be thoroughly investigated and integrated into the State and Regional Planning Strategies currently being prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

(d) the effectiveness of existing protections for consumers and measures to facilitate access to gas connection and supply.

Cowra Council response - it is important that pipe laying processes and maintenance does not impact on either the natural environment or individual rural landholder's capacity to farm their land. It is also imperative the pipes are laid in such a manner that they provide no potential impact on any agricultural practice and done so with reasonable cooperation of the landowner.

- (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.**

Cowra Council response - Cowra township is well serviced by low pressure mains. Unfortunately, the Shires' second largest urban settlement Woodstock is not serviced with low pressure mains despite its close proximity to the high pressure pipeline. It is considered that the situation at Woodstock aligns exactly with item (e) in the terms of reference. Council considers incentives/obligations as suggested are 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



WJ West
Mayor