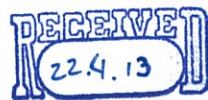


**Submission
No 3**

DOWNSTREAM GAS SUPPLY AND AVAILABILITY IN NSW

Organisation: Armidale Dumaresq Council
Name: Mr Shane Burns
Position: General Manager
Date Received: 22/04/2013



19 April 2013

Your ref:

Our ref: A02/0261-11 O/2013/03068

Mr Andrew Gee MP
Chair, Inquiry in Downstream Gas Supply and availability NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Gee

Inquiry into downstream gas supply and availability in NSW.

Reference is made to your letter of 16 April 2013, encouraging submissions to the current inquiry into downstream gas supply and availability in NSW.

It is noted that the inquiry is not an enquiry about coal seam gas exploration, so this submission will focus purely on the issue of natural gas availability in Armidale and the broader region.

Armidale and the Northern Tablelands region currently do not have access to natural gas and Armidale businesses are subsequently uncompetitive with other regional cities that do have access to this lower cost energy source.

Council became aware of a proposal a number of years ago to bring a major pipeline down from Queensland to service the Newcastle and Sydney markets. Various routes were looked at, including through the Northern Tablelands, but the preferred route was through Tamworth then on to service Newcastle and Sydney. The Northern Tablelands construction was more costly due to the geology. Council subsequently pushed for the possibility of a spur line coming up to Armidale and the broader Northern Tablelands from Tamworth. There was a suggestion that the lesser cost Queensland gas could be fed back down the Central Ranges pipeline coming up from Dubbo.

Council funded a feasibility study at that time to support the spur line but nothing has come of the major pipeline proposal from Queensland to progress the matter. There is even a greater case for bringing the gas into the region, with the requirements of the tomato farm at Guyra.



In summary, Armidale would like to be considered in any strategic assessment and roll out of the expansion of gas supply in NSW. It would be happy to be involved in planning discussions, should this opportunity be provided.

Please contact me on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED] if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely



Shane Burns
General Manager