

## **DOWNSTREAM GAS SUPPLY AND AVAILABILITY IN NSW**

**Organisation:** W.J. Dietrich & Co  
**Name:** Mr William Dietrich  
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# W.J. DIETRICH & CO

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
TAX & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS  
ABN: 87 669 514 739

WILLIAM J. DIETRICH

REGISTERED TAX AGENT &  
PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT

OUR REF: WJD:hd

20 June 2013

The Committee Manager  
State & Regional Development Committee  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

And by facsimile: 02 9230 3052

Dear Sir

## **Inquiry into Downstream Gas Supply and Availability in NSW**

We refer to the above inquiry and in particular to Item (e) of the Terms of Reference.

By way of background we are a family run accountancy practice based on Condobolin in the Central West of NSW. Our client base is wide and diversified but is mainly based in the town of Condobolin and surrounding district and includes all types of business and salary and wage earners typical of such a community. This latter group includes indigenous clients.

It is our strong view that the town of Condobolin should be connected to the Natural Gas Network for the following reasons:

1. The proximity of Condobolin to the network pipeline. The map attached as Annexure "A" serves to demonstrate this and at its closest point to the town is slightly over 30 kilometres away.
2. The population of Condobolin which is slightly in excess of 3200.
3. The indigenous population of the town which is around 25% and increasing. These people generally come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and to deprive them of the benefits of natural gas in their homes is an unpleasant reminder of the racism and discrimination that rears its ugly head from time to time in the wider Australian Community. The writer well remembers when the original natural gas pipeline was constructed in the 1970's and how Condobolin was disregarded and population centres with few or no indigenous people were happily connected. Again in the 1990s more towns were connected, but not Condobolin. It is hoped that the attitudes that prevailed at those times do not still affect our decision makers.

4. The benefits to business. Condobolin as a community is constantly trying to attract new business. At times this has been successful only to see them disappear. The closure of the abattoir in 1977 which employed 300 staff is the most striking example of this. More recently the closure of the Fanquip factory in 2003 is another example. Had the town been connected to natural gas these closures may not have occurred. If Condobolin is to be competitive in attracting industry it must be connected to natural gas.

Whilst we realise that the connection of natural gas to Condobolin will be at a cost (and we have no idea what this might be) it must be remembered that there are avenues which could be explored to finance this. These could include:

- a. Lachlan Shire Council, which we understand is very supportive of this infrastructure.
- b. Wiraduri Condobolin Corporation which has strong connections with Barrick Gold at Lake Cowall.
- c. Federal and State Governments who could be encouraged to put employment programs in place for the construction of a pipeline to Condobolin. Such employment programs could make use of indigenous employment funded programs.

We trust that you will view the contents of this submission favourably and that this inquiry is a small but significant step towards having Condobolin connected to the Moomba-Sydney Gas Pipeline.

Yours faithfully  
W J Dietrich & Co



William J Dietrich

# ANNEXURE A

## Description of the New South Wales Gas Network owned and operated by Jemena Gas Networks (NSW) Ltd.

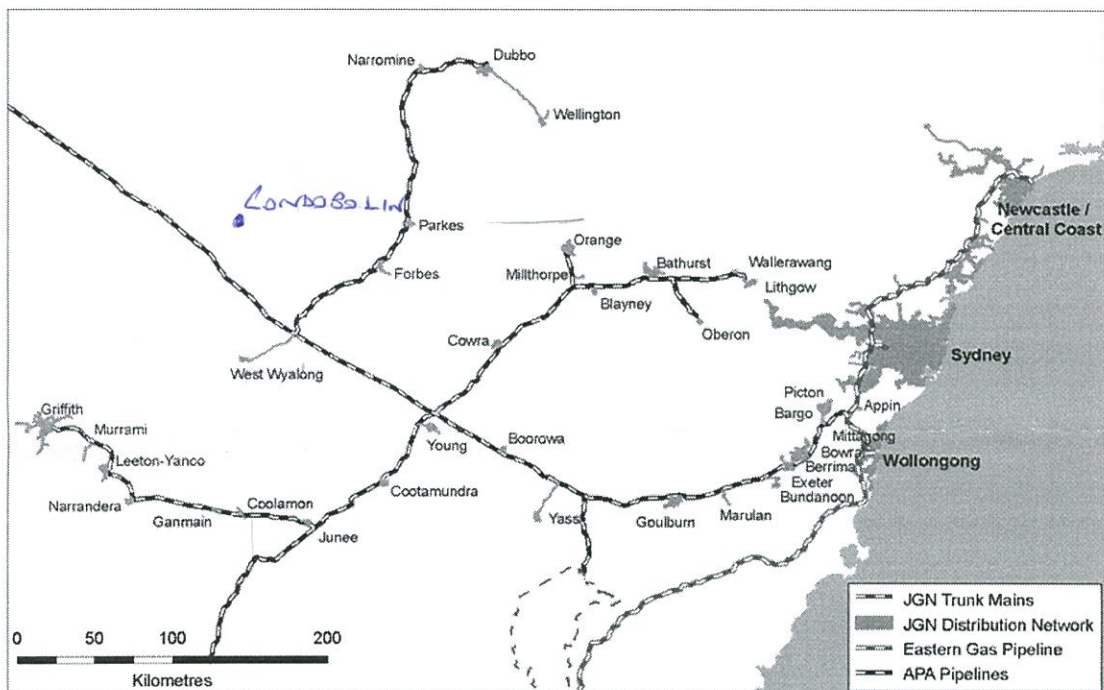
The New South Wales gas network owned and operated by Jemena Gas Networks (NSW) Ltd (the Network) is made up of four covered pipelines:

- i) NSW Distribution System;
- ii) Central West Distribution System;
- iii) Wilton-Newcastle trunk pipeline (the 'northern trunk'); and
- iv) Wilton-Wollongong trunk pipeline (the 'southern trunk').

The four pipelines are all classified as distribution pipelines and are dealt with in a single consolidated Access Arrangement for purposes of the National Gas Law.

The Network receives Natural Gas from the Moomba-Sydney Pipeline and its laterals (owned by the APA Group) and from the Jemena-owned Eastern Gas Pipeline (EGP) at various network receipt points; and coal seam methane from AGL at Camden.

The Network supplies natural gas to more than 1,040,000 gas consumers via approximately 24,000 km of mains operating at a number of different pressure levels. Gas is currently supplied to Sydney, Newcastle, Central Coast and Wollongong as well as over 20 country centres including those in the Central West, Central Tablelands, South Western, Southern Tablelands, Riverina and Southern Highlands regions of NSW as shown on the following map:



Low and medium pressure networks are supplied from higher pressure networks via pressure regulating stations that reduce the operating pressure to the levels required by the lower pressure networks. Pressure regulating stations are generally named according to the type of high pressure main they are supplied from – for example,