



ActewAGL
Always.

ActewAGL House 221 London Circuit Canberra ACT 2600 • GPO Box 366 Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone 13 14 93 Facsimile 02 6249 7237 www.actewagl.com.au

31 March 2006

Manager – MCE Secretariat
Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
GPO Box 9839
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

Response to the Draft Report of the MCE Expert Panel on Energy Access Pricing

ActewAGL welcomes the opportunity to respond to the *Expert Panel on Energy Access Pricing Draft Report to the Ministerial Council on Energy* released in March. ActewAGL believes that the *Draft Report* is a useful addition to the ongoing energy policy development process.

ActewAGL is particularly keen to see reforms that reduce the costs, complexity and risks of regulation. While the Expert Panel recognises the need to address these issues, we are concerned that some of the recommendations do not provide adequate guidance to the regulator or certainty for the regulated businesses. As an owner of both electricity and gas distribution networks, we also appreciate that there may be gains from making the regulatory frameworks for gas and electricity more consistent, particularly in terms of regulatory processes and procedures. At the same time, different technical and market characteristics must be taken into account. We are concerned, however, that the Expert Panel has not provided adequate guidance on where differences may be relevant and how they should be accommodated.

ActewAGL's comments on the *Draft Report* are set out in the attached submission.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the energy market reform process. Should you have any questions relating to this submission, please direct them to Mr David Graham, Director Regulatory Affairs and Pricing on (02) 6248 3605 or by e-mail to david.graham@actewagl.com.au.

Yours faithfully

J A Mackay
Chief Executive Officer