



14 December 2004

Manager - Energy Market Reform Team
National Energy Market Branch
Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
GPO Box 9839
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir or Madam

The Council of Social Service of New South Wales (NCOSS) is the peak body for the social and community services sector in New South Wales. NCOSS works with its members on behalf of disadvantaged people and communities towards achieving social justice in this State. NCOSS provides an independent voice on welfare policy issues and social and economic reforms and is the major co-ordinator for non-government social and community services.

I am writing in regard to the proposed new National Energy Law and Rules. Unfortunately, due to the limited time available for the consultation by the Ministerial Council on Energy Standing Committee of Officials, NCOSS has been unable to prepare a comprehensive submission on the issues raised by the proposed changes.

NCOSS is disappointed that the Ministerial Council on Energy has not taken the opportunity to incorporate social equity and environmental goals within the proposed Law. The proposed terms of reference of the Australian Energy Regulator should incorporate social equity and environmental regulation enforcement capabilities.

NCOSS is also seeking clarification on the objectives of splitting the regulatory functions between the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission and the new Australian Energy Regulator. The purposes of this split are not clear from the Information Paper circulated by the Standing Committee of Officials.

NCOSS would be willing to provide further information in regard to the issues raised in this letter provided a suitable timeframe can be proposed.

Yours sincerely


Gary Moore
Director