

1 September 2006

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

By email: MCETMarketReform@industry.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

ORIGIN ENERGY SUBMISSION TO MCE COMPETITION CRITERIA CONSULTATION PAPER

Origin Energy (Origin) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the MCE Standing Committee of Officials' Consultation Paper *Phase out of Retail Price Regulation for Electricity and Natural Gas - Draft Effective Competition Criteria*. Please find attached Origin's submission to the Consultation Paper.

Overall, we support the substance of the approach in the Consultation Paper, and we endorse Option 3, which is to weight criteria/indicators based on classes of indicators (i.e. place more weight on input related indicators compared to outcome related indicators).

Based on this, and on an analysis of the criteria outlined by the SCO in its Consultation Paper, Origin has suggested a competition assessment decision-making framework that prioritises the range of data to be collected. This approach also incorporates the 'in principle' indicators under the Australian Energy Market Agreement.

If you have any queries please feel free to call Fiona Watters on 03 9652 5878.

Yours faithfully

[signed]

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