



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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Our Ref: C2005/1802
Contact Officer: Nadia Cooke
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15 February 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

**Application for authorisation (A90990) lodged by Woodside Energy,
Benaris International and CalEnergy Gas (Australia) – draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Woodside Energy Ltd, Benaris International Pty Ltd and CalEnergy Gas (Australia) Ltd (the Applicants) on 28 October 2005.

The Applicants are seeking authorisation for three years to:

- negotiate and establish the common terms and conditions (including price) upon which LPG produced by the Otway Gas Project will be offered for sale
- jointly market and sell that LPG to a common customer or customers.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached. For the reasons set out in the draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation to the Applicants' arrangement for three years.

A copy of the draft determination will also be available on the ACCC's website <www.accc.gov.au> by following the links 'Public registers', 'Authorisations (s. 89) and notifications (s. 95) registers' and 'Authorisations register'.

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the applicants or any interested party who may be dissatisfied with the ACCC's draft determination may request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'. A pre-decision conference provides the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. In accordance with



section 90A of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*, you must notify the ACCC in writing by close of business **Wednesday 1 March 2006** if you wish the ACCC to hold a conference in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally, without the participation of legal or other professional advisers.

Alternatively, you are also invited to make a written submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination. Written submissions should be lodged by close of business **Wednesday 8 March 2006** at the following address:

The General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
PO Box 1199
DICKSON ACT 2602

Submissions can also be lodged by e-mail to adjudication@acc.gov.au or by facsimile on (02) 6243 1211.

Any submission you make will be placed on the ACCC's public register. You may request that information you provide in a submission to the ACCC be treated as confidential and not placed on the public register. Information excluded from the public register for reasons of confidentiality will still be considered by the ACCC when reaching its decision. Guidelines for seeking confidentiality are attached for your information.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-determination conference be called, and will then release a final determination in relation to these applications.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter please do not hesitate to contact Nadia Cooke on (03) 9290 1478.

Yours sincerely



David Hatfield
Director
Adjudication Branch

GUIDELINES FOR CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMS

The process whereby the Commission assesses applications for authorisation or notification is very public, transparent and consultative. The *Trade Practices Act 1974* (TPA) requires the Commission to maintain a public register in respect of authorisation and notification applications.

Applicants and interested parties can request that a submission, or part of a submission, be excluded from the public register.

The Commission is required under the TPA to exclude from the public register upon request details of:

- (i) secret formulae or process;
- (ii) the cash consideration offered for the acquisition of shares in the capital of a body corporate or assets of a person; or
- (iii) the current manufacturing, producing or marketing costs of goods or services.

However, even if a document does not meet these technical requirements, the Commission may still grant confidentiality where, in the Commission's view, it is desirable to do so.

The Commission also has the discretion, under s89 of the TPA, to exclude material from the public register if it is satisfied that it is desirable to do so, either by reason of the confidential nature of the material or for any other reason. The Commission expects that a party claiming confidentiality on these grounds will present a case for its treatment in this manner.

Under Regulation 24 of the *Trade Practices Regulations*, when a request for confidentiality is made to the Commission:

- (a) where the request is that a whole document be excluded, the words "**Restriction of Publication Claimed**" should appear in red writing near the top of each page; and
- (b) where the request is that part of a document be excluded, the words "**Restriction of Publication of Part Claimed**" should appear in red near the top of the first page of each document, and the part for which confidentiality is claimed should also be marked in red. A submission of more than 5 pages should also include a description of the whereabouts of the parts for which confidentiality is claimed.

Applicants, as a matter of course, should remove headers claiming "confidential communication" from all Emails and otherwise, unless they have a particular piece of information that they justify to the Commission deserves exclusion from the public register. If confidentiality is not requested but a header cannot be removed, it should be clearly stated at the beginning of the communication that confidentiality is not requested.

If the Commission denies a confidentiality request, the requesting party may ask that the material be returned. As a matter of practice, the Commission will specify a period (usually 14 days) in which they can request the return of such material. Upon response, the Commission will return the original material and destroy all associated copies. The Commission will not consider this material when reaching its decision.

If the Commission does not receive a response within the specified period, the original material will be placed on the public register.

Information or documents granted confidentiality may be used by the Commission pursuant to its powers generally under the TPA.

List of interested parties

Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

Department of Primary Industry Victoria

BP

BHP Petroleum Pty Ltd

Elgas

Origin Energy

Shell

Caltex Australia

VitalGas

Unigas

Woolworths Petrol

Wesfarmers Kleenheat

United Petroleum