



Australian Energy Market Commission

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Ms. M. Kingston
18 Talofa Avenue
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19 October 2007

Our ref: EOR0008/39558

Dear Ms Kingston

Re: Submission to the AEMC Retail competition review

I refer to your submission to the AEMC dated 6 October 2007 regarding the AEMC review of the effectiveness of competition in the gas and electricity markets in Victoria. I note that your submission includes a joint paper to the AEMC, Productivity Commission and the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE).

I note your concerns about the consultation period for the review and your comments regarding AEMC responses to your enquires about submissions to the Review. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to a number of issues you have raised in your submission.

As you may be aware, the AEMC has been directed by the MCE to conduct this Review. The AEMC Review consists of two key parts – the review of the effectiveness of competition and advice to the Victorian Government on transitioning arrangements. The MCE has requested that the AEMC complete the Review by no later than end February 2008 and the various stages of the review are dictated by this timeframe. The findings and recommendations of the AEMC will be considered and responded to by the Victorian Government.

As part of this Review, the AEMC is conducting a public consultation process. To date, the AEMC has called for public submissions on a Scoping Paper, an Issues Paper and most recently the First Draft Report on the effectiveness of competition. As you are aware, the closing date for submissions to the First Draft Report is 9 November 2007.

I also refer to your correspondence with the AEMC dated 2 August, 2007, which sought information on the AEMC's deadlines and submission parameters and enquired whether a proposed submission from you would be considered by the AEMC. As such, your letter was treated by the AEMC as an enquiry and was responded to as a piece of correspondence rather than a submission. The AEMC publishes submissions on its website in order to facilitate awareness amongst stakeholders of submissions received as part of the consultation process.

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I also confirm the AEMC's treatment of late submissions as communicated to you in our letter in response to your query of 2 August 2007. The AEMC accepts late submissions at its discretion and cannot guarantee that a late submission will receive the same level of consideration as those submitted within the timeframe, due to the constraints imposed by strict project deadlines.

You have indicated in your submission that you intend to make a further submission to the First Draft Report. The AEMC welcomes and encourages submissions from all parties including end users such as yourself as it has done for all rounds of public consultation during this review. Whilst the AEMC requests submissions in PDF format where this is practicable or possible, the AEMC will accept written submissions in other formats.

I note and appreciate your attendance at the forum in Melbourne. These forums form part of a valuable wider consultation process aimed at seeking feedback and experiences from end users. Thank you for your submission. It will be published on the AEMC's website in due course.

Yours sincerely



Steven Graham
Chief Executive Officer