

Our Ref: S2004/83
Contact Officer: Alex Ralston
Contact Phone: 02 9230 9161

3 August 2005

Mr David Paterson
Director
Central Ranges Pipeline Pty Ltd
GPO Box 4729
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Paterson

Central Ranges Pipeline extension of access arrangement lodgement date

I refer to your letter of 7 July 2005 seeking an extension of time from 5 August to 5 November 2005 for the lodgement of the Central Ranges Pipeline access arrangement.

The Commission has, pursuant to section 7.19 of the *National Third Part Access Code for Natural Gas Pipeline Systems* (Code), decided to grant this request. The Commission concluded that the proposed extension to the lodgement date would be unlikely to have a material negative impact on access seekers after taking into account the following factors:

- reference tariffs for the Central Ranges Pipeline have already been established for the period until 2019; and
- the pipeline has not yet been built;

The Commission notes that this is the fifth time that the date for the lodgement of the proposed access arrangement has been extended. The total period of these extensions is now over 14 months. The length of this delay is a matter of concern for the Commission, as the object of the Code is that an access arrangement be submitted within 90 days of the Final Approval Request being granted.

The Commission has granted this most recent request for an extension in the expectation that a proposed access arrangement will be submitted by 5 November 2005. Any further request for an extension will be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Code and the relevant circumstances at that time. However, you should not assume that any further extension will be granted.

Yours sincerely

Warwick Anderson
Acting General Manager