

# GasNet Australia Access Arrangement Information

Commencement Date: 1 January 2003

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# GasNet Australia Access Arrangement Information Details

*[Important Note: This draft Access Arrangement Information is, subject to ACCC approval, designed to take effect on 1 January 2003. It has been prepared for use after that date.]*

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<b>Covered Pipeline</b>	GasNet System (“GNS”)	
<b>Lodged by</b>	GasNet Australia (Operations) Pty Ltd ABN 65 083 009 278 (“GasNet”)	
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<b>Commencement Date</b>	1 January 2003	
<b>End Date</b>	31 December 2007	

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# GasNet Australia Access Arrangement Information

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

This AA Information is submitted to the Commission in accordance with section 2.28 of the Code.

GasNet has lodged with the Commission the draft GasNet Access Arrangement in relation to the GNS to apply in the Second Access Arrangement Period commencing on 1 January 2003.

The purpose of this AA Information is to assist Users and Prospective Users to understand the derivation of the elements of GasNet's proposed Access Arrangement.

Consistent with the allocation of responsibilities (under section 10.2 of the Code) between GasNet and VENCORP, this AA Information addresses the categories of information in Attachment A of the Code, except information in relation to the total number of customers in each pricing zone, service or category of asset. GasNet understands that VENCORP has incorporated this data into Access Arrangement Information.

### 1.2 Description of GNS

The GNS is a high pressure gas transmission network which transports natural gas within Victoria and to New South Wales via the Interconnect Pipeline. As at 1 January 2003, the GNS:

- (a) comprises approximately 1,930 km of pipelines;
- (b) has four main injection points at:
  - (i) Longford (adjacent to the Esso/BHP Billiton processing facility and the EGP hub);
  - (ii) Culcairn (the interconnection with the Moomba-Sydney Pipeline System);
  - (iii) Port Campbell (the injection point for WUGS and local fields); and
  - (iv) Dandenong (the site of the LNG facility); and
- (c) serves a total consumption base of approximately 1.4 million residential consumers and approximately 43,000 industrial and commercial consumers in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

At the time the original Access Arrangements were submitted for approval to the Commission in 1997, GasNet's transmission assets consisted of two separate networks, the PTS and the WTS. However, as a result of construction of the SWP, the WTS is now physically connected to the PTS. For the purposes of GasNet's draft Access Arrangement, the whole network is now referred to as the GNS.

A description of the GNS including pipe sizes and distances, maximum operating pressures and a map of the system are contained in Schedule 1.

### **1.3 Maximum Delivery Capability**

The Service Envelope Agreement between GasNet and VENCORP sets out the amount of pipeline capacity that GasNet will provide to VENCORP under certain defined conditions. It is contemplated that the Service Envelope Agreement will be amended prior to the commencement of the Second Access Arrangement Period to include the capacity associated with the WTS.

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## **2 Capital Base**

### **2.1 Initial Capital Base**

In order to establish the Capital Base at the start of the First Access Arrangement Period, GasNet (then TPA) commissioned GHD to provide a valuation of the transmission assets. GHD established a value for the assets based on the ODRC methodology for the period ending 30 June 1997.

GHD adopted the ODRC methodology in valuing GasNet's assets. The ODRC approach measures the cost of replacing the existing network with a new optimised network designed for maximum cost effectiveness, using modern materials and construction techniques. The optimised network was depreciated to reflect the unexpired economic life of the existing network. In completing the valuation, GHD reviewed and modified the economic life to take into account such factors as technological change, trends and geographical shifts in demand and current estimates of proven and probable reserves in Australia.

The GHD valuation included a number of assets which were subsequently excluded by EPD from the valuation used for tariff calculation purposes. The valuation used by EPD excluded the following:

- (a) an allowance for the value of easements (which were valued by GHD at approximately \$40 m);
- (b) an allowance for a number of pipeline regulators and associated remote terminal units (which amounted to \$1.9 m); and
- (c) amounts in relation to the reduction in value of the WTS and the Lurgi pipeline (which amounted to \$10.2 m).

In addition, the Capital Base identified by the Commission in the Final Decision (\$363.7 million) incorrectly omitted the Murray Valley pipeline (which had only just been completed) and incorrectly expressed the balance of the assets.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The balance of the assets was expressed as \$363.7 million, when the actual balance (and the amount used to calculate Reference Tariffs) was \$358.0 million (it appears the Commission used the June 1997 figures instead of the January 1998 figures).

For the purpose of determining the Capital Base at the commencement of the Second Access Arrangement Period, GasNet has rolled forward the rectified Capital Base to reflect the assets identified in the GHD valuation. The rectified Capital Base is as identified in Table 2-1 below.

**Table 2-1: Rectified Initial Capital Base**

<b>Elements of Capital Base</b>	<b>Amount (\$ million)</b>
Capital base (as at 1 January 1998) identified by Commission	363.7
Adjustments for excluded assets and incorrect expression	35.8
Rectified Capital Base (1 January 1998)	399.5

## 2.2 Rolled Forward Capital Base

Consistent with section 8.9 of the Code, GasNet has adjusted the Capital Base to account for:

- (a) depreciation in the First Access Arrangement Period ;
- (b) New Facilities Investment during the First Access Arrangement Period, which, subject to satisfying the tests in section 8.15 and 8.16 of the Code, is included in the Capital Base at cost;
- (c) inflation in the First Access Arrangement Period.

Table 2-2 sets out how the Capital Base was adjusted over the First Access Arrangement Period.

**Table 2-2: Rolled Forward Capital Base (\$ million)**

<b>Year ending 31 December</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Opening Capital Base	399.5	431.2	518.1	537.7	542.3
Depreciation Allowance	-13.8	-15.2	-17.0	-18.1	-18.3
Capital Expenditure	39.0	93.3	6.2	4.5	0.6
Disposals/Redundancies	-0.2	-0.2	-1.4	-0.1	-0.03
Inflation	6.6	9.0	31.8	18.4	15.2
Closing Capital Base	431.2	518.1	537.7	542.3	539.7

## 2.3 Accumulated Depreciation

Accumulated depreciation of the Capital Base to 31 December 2002 is shown in Table 2-3 below.

**Table 2-3: Accumulated Depreciation (\$ million)**

Accumulated depreciation identified in GHD valuation as at 30 June 1997	\$225.0
Plus depreciation for period 30 June 1997 to 31 December 2002	\$81.7
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 December 2002	\$306.7

## 2.4 Summary of Capital Base

Table 2-4 describes the Capital Base (by category of asset) at the commencement of the Second Access Arrangement Period. These figures are in nominal dollars assuming actual CPI from 1 January 1998 and 2.5% CPI forecast from 31 December 2001.

**Table 2-4: Capital Base as at 1 January 2003 (Nominal \$ million)**

Facility Category	ODRC Value
Pipelines	462.1
Compressors	47.1
Odourisation	0.2
System Control	21.3
Gas Quality	0.1
General Land & Buildings	8.4
Other	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>539.7</b>

## 3 Revenue Requirement

### 3.1 Total Revenue

GasNet has used the Cost of Service methodology for determining its Total Revenue requirement. Using this methodology, Total Revenue is calculated on the basis of:

- (a) a return (Rate of Return) on the Capital Base;
- (b) depreciation of the Capital Base;
- (c) inflation of the Capital Base; and
- (d) the operating, maintenance and other non-capital costs incurred in providing all Services provided by the GNS.

In addition, section 8.20 of the Code provides that Reference Tariffs may be determined on the basis of New Facilities Investment that is forecast to occur within the Access Arrangement Period, provided that such investment is reasonably expected to pass the requirements of section 8.16 of the Code when the investment is forecast to occur.

### 3.2 Rate of return

GasNet's proposals for the various parameters of the cost of capital are provided in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1: WACC Parameters**

WACC Parameter	GasNet Proposal
Real risk-free interest rate	3.20%*
Nominal risk-free interest rate	5.78%*
Bond Maturity Period	10 years
Prevailing Bond Rates Selection Method	To be agreed <i>ex ante</i> with Commission
Expected Inflation	2.5%
Inflation selection period	10 years

WACC Parameter	GasNet Proposal
Debt margin	120 basis points
Cost of Debt	6.98%
Market risk premium	6.0%
Gearing Ratio	60%
Value of Imputation Credits	50%
Asset beta	0.60
Debt beta	0.06
Equity beta	1.40
Return to Equity	14.19%
Nominal Vanilla WACC	9.86%
Real Vanilla WACC	7.19%
Pre tax real WACC (based on post tax nominal model with normalisation)	8.22%
Real tax wedge	1.04%

\* These amounts are indicative only. The final amounts will be determined by reference to market observations prior to the Final Decision.

### 3.3 Depreciation Allowance

The Depreciation Schedule for the First Access Arrangement Period was based on a real straight line depreciation profile. GasNet has retained this methodology, except for the SWP, which will be levelised over the first 20 years.

GasNet has not deviated significantly from the Depreciation Schedules approved by the Commission for the First Access Arrangement Period. However, consistent with section 8.33(c) of the Code, GasNet has reviewed the basis for the calculation of the economic lives of the assets in the light of recent estimates of gas reserves and other relevant events. New pipelines which have been built since the commencement of the First Access Arrangement Period have also been included in the Depreciation Schedule.

#### *Asset Categories and Technical Life*

Table 3-2 shows the defined asset groups and technical lives adopted for each group.

**Table 3-2: Assets categories and technical life**

Asset Category	Technical Life
Compressor Stations	30 years
Heaters	20 years
Pipelines (including line and branch valves)	60 years
Telemetry equipment	5 years
Buildings	60 years
Land	NA
Office Equipment	5 years

The asset groups and the technical lives remain unchanged from the First Access Arrangement Period except for a further sub-categorisation of pipeline assets.

#### *Economic Life*

GasNet commissioned Saturn Resources to review and update the analysis they conducted to derive the estimates of the asset lives used in relation to the



First Access Arrangement Period. Saturn's original report was attached as an annexure to the GHD valuation. Saturn's latest report has been provided to the Commission on a confidential basis.

Since the start of the First Access Arrangement Period, GasNet has constructed two new pipelines (the Interconnect and the SWP) which have been included in the assessment of the economic lives of GasNet's pipeline assets.

The focus of Saturn's report was an analysis of the factors that can affect the ability of the pipeline to earn reasonable revenues in the future. The factors considered by Saturn were:

- (a) gas reserves;
- (b) bypass risk;
- (c) rezoning and forced relocations; and
- (d) unexpected and unspecified factors.

The results of Saturn's analysis are shown in Table 3-3 below.

**Table 3-3: Saturn Analysis of Remaining Economic Life by Pipeline Group**

Pipeline	End of life First AA Period (GHD 6/97)	End of life Second AA Period (31/12/2002)
Longford	2030	2023
SWP	NA	2052
WTS	2033	2033
Rest of System	2033	2033

#### *Depreciation Schedule*

Table 3-4 shows the calculated depreciation allowance for each class of asset and the total depreciation allowance that has been included in the Total Revenue. These figures are based on the existing CCA framework, with the exception of the SWP where depreciation has been levelised for the first 20 years.

**Table 3-4: Depreciation Allowance by Asset Category (\$million)**

Asset Category	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Pipelines	13.7	14.3	14.9	15.6	15.6
Compressors	4.2	4.4	4.8	4.7	4.1
System control facilities	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3
Odourisation	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Gas Quality	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
General land and building	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>21.4</b>

### 3.4 Inflation

As GasNet has adopted a real rate of return tariff methodology, the Reference Tariffs incorporate an escalation of the Capital Base each year. GasNet has used an annual inflation rate of 2.5%.

### 3.5 Non-Capital Costs

GasNet's Non-Capital Costs consist of the following categories:

- (a) operating costs, comprising:
  - (i) operating and maintenance costs (O&M), which by an activity allocation procedure have broken down into:
    - (A) pipeline maintenance costs; and
    - (B) compressor maintenance costs;
  - (ii) general and administrative costs (G&A);
  - (iii) fuel gas costs (for compressor operations and heaters);
- (b) return on working capital;
- (c) K factor carry-over;
- (d) benefit sharing allowance;
- (e) asymmetric risk allowance; and
- (f) capital raising costs.

For illustration, the allowances for 2003 (except those relating to the K Factor carry-over and benefit sharing allowance which are one off costs) are set out in Table 3-5 below.

**Table 3-5: Non-capital costs for 2003 (\$ nominal million)**

Non-capital cost		Allowance
O&M	Pipeline maintenance	5.9
	Compressor maintenance	3.3
General & administrative		8.0
Fuel gas		1.2
Working capital allowance		0.3
Asymmetric risks		0.7
Capital raising costs		2.5

#### *Operating costs*

All of GasNet's operating costs except for compressor fuel, odorant and electricity used at compressor station operations are fixed in nature. GasNet's forecast operating costs for the period 2003 - 2007 are shown in Table 3-6 below.

**Table 3-6: Forecast of GasNet's operating costs, Jan 2003- Dec 2007<sup>2</sup>  
(nominal \$million)**

<b>Operating cost</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Pipeline maintenance	5.9	6.8	6.2	7.4	7.4
Compressor maintenance	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8
G&A	8.0	8.4	8.6	8.9	9.1
Fuel gas	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>22.0</b>

These operating costs comprise a range of cost components, allocated as shown in Table 3-7 below.

**Table 3-7: Components of Forecast Operating Costs 2003-2007 (nominal \$ million)**

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Labour	7.3	7.6	7.9	8.3	8.6
Materials	0.7	1.0	0.6	1.0	1.0
Fuel Gas	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.7
Outside Services - Gas Related	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4
Outside Services - Other	3.2	4.3	3.8	4.8	4.2
Regulatory/Utility Charges	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
Occupancy	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Communications	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Motor Vehicle	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Information Technology	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Training	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Travel	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Promotions/Public Relations	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Sundry	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3
Labour Recoveries	-0.4	-0.8	-0.7	-1.2	-0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>22.0</b>

*Return on working capital*

GasNet's Working capital allowance consists of the following costs:

- (a) investment in passive linepack gas; and
- (b) inventories (ie the cost of holding spares and materials to deal with emergencies and standard maintenance activities).

<sup>2</sup> The forecast costs set out in Table 3-6 constitute that part of GasNet's operating costs which are relevant to the provision of the regulated service. GasNet also provides a metering service and an LNG service. The costs associated with these services have been separated from the costs associated with the regulated service according to a set of transparent accounting measures. Unregulated activity costs are confidential to GasNet. However, GasNet has provided the allocation model to the ACCC for its review.

The appropriate return on working capital is the nominal WACC, which represents the actual “interest rate” to be paid each year on the investment in working capital.

Table 3-8 shows the cost associated with each of these items and the forecast return on working capital for the period 2003 to 2007.

**Table 3-8: Forecast return working capital**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Return on linepack	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Return on inventories	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>

*K Factor carry over*

GasNet has maintained an account representing the K factor and submitted this to the Commission each year as part of its annual tariff approval process. The K factor which is to be rolled forward into 2003 under the Fixed Principles will not be known until the end of 2002. Therefore, GasNet has made a forecast of the amount expected to be carried forward into the next regulatory period. Any discrepancy between the actual and forecast K factor for 2002 will be added to the K factor calculated for the year 2003 under the proposed new price control model for the Second Access Arrangement Period (see Schedule 3 of the draft Access Arrangement). The estimated K-factor to be carried forward is \$14.0 million.

GasNet has added the forecast K factor carry forward to the forecast operating costs as an extraordinary expense applying in 2003 only. However, this cost will be distributed over the recovery period 2003 to 2007 in the same manner that operating costs are levelised over 2003 to 2007 with the selected X factor.

*Benefit sharing allowance*

GasNet has included in its revenue requirement an allowance reflecting efficiency gains made in the First Access Arrangement Period.

GasNet has adopted the following model to assess the benefit to be shared from efficiency gains made during the First Access Arrangement Period:

- (a) assess the enduring benefit that Users gain from the efficiency improvements made during the First Access Arrangement Period;
- (b) determine a reasonable share of these benefits that should be kept by GasNet and the quantum of the benefit;
- (c) build this benefit into tariffs to apply over the Second Access Arrangement Period.

The benefit that Users gain from operating efficiencies made during the First Access Arrangement Period is calculated as the difference between the

forecast of operating costs for the Second Access Arrangement Period and the last year of the original forecast of operating costs (2002).

**Table 3-9: Calculation of Efficiency Gains**

Original Tariff Model Operating Costs adjusted for additional workload <sup>(a)</sup>	\$18.86 million
Less average Operating Cost Forecast 2003-2007 <sup>(b)</sup>	-\$16.64 million
<b>Benefit to Customer</b>	<b>\$2.22 million</b>

- (a) The original tariff model forecast operating cost for 2002 was \$17.2 million (in 2003) adjusted for actual inflation, after deducting an amount of \$0.8 million for regulatory expenses which were budgeted for but not levied. This figure has been further adjusted upwards by \$1.6 million per year to take into account the additional workload associated with new pipelines (the SWP and Interconnect) and further investment in compressors (Springhurst and Iona).
- (b) This figure excludes reset costs, increase in insurance costs and the ESSO litigation costs.

Extrapolating these efficiency gains as a perpetuity over the life of the GNS, the NPV of efficiency gains made during the First Access Arrangement Period is \$27.0 million. GasNet proposes that a reasonable sharing of this benefit is 20%, or \$5.4 million in 2003 (NPV). GasNet proposes to recover this share over the Second Access Arrangement Period and has included in its tariff calculations an additional allowance of \$5.4 million in 2003 reflecting the benefit sharing allowance. As with the K-Factor carry-forward, this allowance is distributed over the period 2003 to 2007 by the tariff levelisation procedure.

*Asymmetric risk allowance*

GasNet has included in its cost of service an allowance reflecting the following asymmetric risks downside that are not adequately reflected elsewhere in the Total Revenue calculation. Table 3-10 below details each category of asymmetric risk.

**Table 3-10: Categories of Asymmetric risk**

<b>Asymmetric Risk</b>	<b>Allowance (\$ p.a.)</b>
Property related risks	20,000
Deductibles in current insurance arrangements	140,000
Credit risk	252,000
Terrorist threat	65,000
Risk of stranding	75,000
Other risks	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>752,000</b>

*Capital raising costs*

GasNet proposes to include in its non-capital costs an annual allowance of \$2.4 million in relation to its prudent amortized capital raising costs, comprising the following amounts:

**Table 3-11: Capital Raising Costs**

<b>Capital Raising Event</b>	<b>Annual allowance(\$ million)</b>
Equity raisings (IPO, new placements)	0.5

Capital Raising Event	Annual allowance(\$ million)
Debt financing	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>

These costs are based on a combination of a reasonably prudent capital and debt raising program and GasNet's actual circumstances consistent with:

- (a) funding ongoing extensions and expansions; and
- (b) market practice.

### 3.6 Forecast Capital Expenditure

The forecast capital expenditure for the Access Arrangement Period is set out in Table 3-12. An explanation of each of the items identified in Table 3-12 is provided below.

**Table 3-12: Forecast Capital Expenditure (nominal \$m)**

Year ending 30 June	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Brooklyn Loop	-	-	-	-	20.70*
Gooding Compressor refurbishment	-	-	6.49	8.13	7.95
Lurgi pipeline refurbishment	2.05	2.10	1.55	5.83	5.97
City Gate Upgrades <sup>3</sup>	-	2.36	2.53	4.41	-
Wollert Automation	-	1.50	1.82	-	-
Small laterals	1.54	1.58	1.62	1.66	1.70
Maintenance Capex	1.90	1.43	0.51	0.59	1.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>8.97</b>	<b>14.52</b>	<b>20.62</b>	<b>37.44</b>

\* This represents the recoverable portion of the Brooklyn Loop capital expenditure

#### *Brooklyn Loop*

GasNet expects to construct a partial looping of the Brooklyn-Corio pipeline in 2007. It is designed to increase the deliverability of the SWP into Melbourne. Its proposed loop will consist of a 500 mm pipeline with a length of 36 km which is to be laid in the easement adjoining the existing Brooklyn-Corio pipeline. The duplication is required as part of an overall project to meet deliverability requirements for the system under the load growth and gas flows forecast over the period to December 2007. The partial looping will expand the capacity of the SWP by 70 TJ/day.

The forecast construction cost is \$32.4 million (2002 dollars), \$20.7 million of which GasNet has included as forecast capital expenditure on the basis that this portion of the capital expenditure can be reasonably expected to pass the requirements of section 8.16 of the Code.

#### *Gooding Compressor Station Refurbishment*

The Gooding compressor refurbishment is expected to be commissioned over the period 2005-2007 at a cost of \$20.3 million (2002 dollars).

<sup>3</sup> This includes the gas heaters at Wollert, Dandenong and Tyers as discussed below.

The compressor station, which was constructed in 1976, is nearing the end of its 30 year economic life and is showing signs of wear and erosion consistent with being in service for nearly 30 years.

#### *Lurgi Pipeline Rehabilitation*

The Lurgi pipeline was built in 1958 and is the oldest gas transmission pipeline in Australia. The Lurgi line was built in accordance with the available technologies and standards of the day. Pipe manufacturing, coating systems, construction techniques and corrosion mitigation science have since advanced significantly.

The Lurgi pipeline rehabilitation is expected to take place over the period 2004 - 2007. The capital works will be staged to ensure only necessary works will be conducted. The results of each stage will determine the nature of the expenditure for the next stage and hence final project costs will be dependent on the results of the initial pigging and subsequent dig up investigations. The estimated costs for the project are \$16.0 million (2002 dollars).

#### *City gate upgrades*

Upgrades at the Dandenong, Wollert and Morwell city gates will be conducted over the period 2006 to 2007. The forecast cost of the upgrades is \$5.31 million (2002 dollars).

The majority of the regulators and associated controls which comprise the city gates are over 30 years old and experience frequent hydraulic oil leaks.

There are no liquid separation facilities (except at compressor station inlets) throughout the transmission system to separate liquids injected into the system by producers. The liquids are injected in low levels drop out of the stream flow and with the result that quantities build up over time. GasNet currently conducts periodic line valve syphoning to remove excess liquids from the pipeline low points. However, with greater diversity of markets and supply sources and the tendency for plants to operate at peak capabilities, higher levels of liquid carry over can be anticipated in the future. Therefore, GasNet proposes to install liquid removal facilities at each of these stations.

In addition, the Wollert city gate is in need of major re-engineering to rationalise and upgrade the equipment and controls.

#### *Wollert Compressor Station automation*

The Wollert compressor station requires an upgrade to the control system to allow reliable remote operation of the system by VENCORP. This follows the automation of the Gooding and Brooklyn compressors in 1999 and 2000. It is anticipated that the automation will be carried out during the summer of 2004/2005. The forecast cost for the automation is \$2.7 million (2002 dollars).

#### *Gas heaters at Dandenong, and Wollert and Tyers*

GasNet proposes to install gas heaters at Dandenong in 2003, and Wollert in 2004 and Tyers in 2005. The forecast cost of the projects is \$3.0 million (2002 dollars).

The *Gas Safety (Gas Quality) Regulations 1999* (Vic) and VENCORP “Gas Quality Guidelines” were amended in August 2000 to allow a broader range of gas qualities in the GNS. A consequence of this change is that there is now a higher probability that liquid condensates will form in the discharge from the pressure regulation stations.

To mitigate the risk of condensate drop out and maintain system capabilities, it will be necessary to install the gas heaters at the Dandenong, Wollert and Tyers regulator stations.

#### *Lateral pipelines*

From time to time, GasNet is required to construct small lateral pipelines to service new business or industrial premises. GasNet expects that at least three laterals (at an average cost of \$2.5 million each (2002 dollars)) will be constructed during the Second Access Arrangement Period. Accordingly, GasNet has made an allowance of \$1.5 million (2002 dollars) for each year of the Second Access Arrangement Period for the construction of laterals.

#### *Maintenance capex*

GasNet has included an allowance in each regulatory year for maintenance capital expenditure. Total forecast maintenance capital expenditure is \$6.5 million (2002 dollars). This includes IT upgrades (both hardware and software), upgrading assets which have shorter lives than the main assets (such as cathodic protection units, station instruments, electronic systems, heat exchangers) and the acquisition of field and workshop equipment.

## **4 Volume Forecasts**

### **4.1 Peak demand 1998 - 2002**

The peak demand and total annual delivered volume for the period 1998-2002 is set out in Table 4-1.

**Table 4-1: Historical volumes 1998-2000<sup>4</sup>**

<b>Demand and volume</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002 (forecast)<sup>5</sup></b>
Peak Demand TJ/d	1006	911	1153	990	1121
Annual volume (PJ)	192.5	198.6	210.5	210.4	211.2

### **4.2 Peak demand 2003-2007**

The forecast peak demand and total annual delivered volume for the period 2003 to 2008 is set out in Table 4-2.

<sup>4</sup> The historical volumes are not weather normalised and exclude refill volumes.

<sup>5</sup> This figure is based on the VENCORP forecast.



**Table 4-2 Forecast demand 2005-2007<sup>6</sup>**

Demand and Volume	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Peak Demand (TJ/d)	1132	1174	1209	1235	1257
Annual Volume (PJ)	216.2	225.3	232.7	237.2	241.3

### 4.3 System load profile

The system load profiles in each pricing zone during 2001 is shown in the Table 4-3.

**Table 4-3: Total Deliveries by month 2001 (TJ)**

2001 ANNUAL VOLUME													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
La Trobe	1,085	950	880	919	985	972	1,023	1,216	990	953	974	847	11,793
Lurgi	70	56	73	89	115	136	166	179	142	152	123	116	1,416
Metro	8,883	9,075	10,978	12,598	18,245	18,766	20,299	19,826	14,090	13,468	11,653	10,966	168,846
Calder	321	346	485	614	871	981	1,060	1,039	753	756	619	511	8,355
South Hume	24	24	35	51	80	92	100	100	67	60	47	37	717
Echuca	411	567	640	504	496	500	413	502	463	496	425	405	5,822
North Hume	307	324	392	435	642	722	778	735	540	509	423	356	6,163
Carisbrook	24	27	32	48	69	80	87	87	62	59	48	39	659
Murray Valley	27	26	33	39	57	64	64	66	51	61	55	39	583
Barnawartha	461	941	386	160	66	66	40	48	43	6	31	33	2,281
WTS	240	196	222	220	271	325	383	404	371	416	389	359	3,795
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,852</b>	<b>12,533</b>	<b>14,156</b>	<b>15,675</b>	<b>21,896</b>	<b>22,704</b>	<b>24,413</b>	<b>24,202</b>	<b>17,571</b>	<b>16,936</b>	<b>14,785</b>	<b>13,707</b>	<b>210,430</b>

### 4.4 Annual volume across each pricing zone

The actual and forecast annual volumes across each pricing zone is set out in Table 4-4 below.

**Table 4-4: Actual and forecast annual volumes (TJ)**

ANNUAL VOLUME BY TUoS ZONE												
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		
	ACTUAL				FORECAST							
La Trobe	Not Available as CTM Network not yet operational	10,480	4,003	11,793	14,055	13,475	16,787	19,867	20,786	21,704		
Lurgi		1,389	1,497	1,416	1,475	1,521	1,564	1,611	1,659	1,709		
Metro		162,458	168,257	168,846	166,110	170,437	174,858	178,091	180,640	182,895		
Calder		8,298	8,263	8,355	9,195	9,509	9,892	10,136	10,320	10,428		
South Hume		787	712	717	842	874	906	923	934	935		
Echuca		4,696	5,500	5,822	6,735	6,986	7,236	7,360	7,462	7,506		
North Hume		5,739	6,116	6,163	2,208	2,290	2,372	2,412	2,446	2,461		
Carisbrook		937	576	659								
Murray Valley		162	381	583	829	1,094	1,419	1,785	2,142	2,506		
Barnawartha		68	1,384	2,281								
Wodonga					4,660	4,707	4,754	4,801	4,849	4,898		
Tyers					765	790	813	837	862	888		
SWP				520	570	573	578	681	784			
W'bool (Koroit)					2,043	2,135	2,223	2,313	2,404			
WTS	3,339	3,573	3,809	3,795	3,757	1,894	1,979	2,060	2,144	2,228		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>189,135</b>	<b>198,586</b>	<b>210,496</b>	<b>210,430</b>	<b>211,151</b>	<b>216,190</b>	<b>225,287</b>	<b>232,683</b>	<b>237,239</b>	<b>241,346</b>		

<sup>6</sup> The forecast volumes have been weather normalised.

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## 5 Reference Tariff Calculation

### 5.1 Tariff Design Principles

The tariff design for the Second Access Arrangement Period is structured along the following principles, which are unchanged from the existing design except where noted.

- (a) The system is divided into withdrawal zones, where a charge is levied on the withdrawing User, and injection points, where the charge is levied on the injector. In respect of the actual charges to be levied on Users, there is no assumed relationship between injections and withdrawals, except in certain zones where matched rebates are offered. This corresponds to the Market Carriage structure, where Users can inject and withdraw as they please, with any differences taken to be purchases (or sales) on the spot market.
- (b) The injection point charge recovers the cost of the injection pipeline. The withdrawal charge recovers the cost of transmission from the injection pipeline to the User.
- (c) The cost of transmission through the withdrawal zones is based on a forecast of physical flows. Gas is assumed to have followed the physical path even if it was injected at a different injection point.
- (d) Costs are allocated to 1 in 2 winter peak flows and annual flows in the ratio of 60% to peak and 40% to annual. This differs from the current model which allocates 65% of costs to the 1 in 20 winter peak flow.
- (e) Withdrawals are charged within 15 withdrawal zones (an increase over the current 12 zones to reflect System expansion and the need for prudent discounts).
- (f) Within each withdrawal zone there are up to 3 tariff classes. The existing tariff classes of Tariff-D and Tariff-V are supplemented by a storage refill tariff.
- (g) Injections are charged at each of the injection points.
- (h) The injection charge is levied on the ten peak injection days over the winter at each injection point (as compared to the current charge levied on five peak days).
- (i) The withdrawal charge is levied on the actual flows each month (an “Anytime” charge). A different withdrawal charge applies to each tariff class.
- (j) There is no “wash-up” procedure on withdrawal charges. However, to provide a smoother payment schedule for Users, injection charges will be forecast for each injector and levied monthly on a sculpted profile. An injection charge wash-up will be performed after September each year when the actual peak days are known.

## 5.2 Tariff Derivation Procedure

In broad terms, the tariff is calculated using the following procedure.

- (a) The peak and annual flows at each off-take are forecast for the Access Arrangement Period.
- (b) Costs are allocated to each off-take using the procedures described in section 5.3 below. The allocation is to each tariff class at each off-take. The tariff classes are defined below in section 5.6.
- (c) The costs at each off-take are aggregated into the 15 withdrawal tariff zones and the injection pipelines.
- (d) The parameters for charging tariffs on the injection pipelines and within the withdrawal zones are defined in section 5.4 and 5.5 below.
- (e) The tariff is the result of dividing the charging parameters into the allocated costs for each injection pipeline and withdrawal zone. These tariffs are levelised over the period 2003-2007 using the real, pre-tax WACC at the selected X-factors. The selected X-Factors are described in section 5.10 below.

## 5.3 Cost Allocation Procedures

This section describes how costs are allocated to specific off-takes and tariff classes.

Cost are grouped into the following categories, and allocated as shown in Table 5-1.

**Table 5-1: Cost Allocation Procedure**

Cost Category	Allocation Method
System Assets (return on and of capital) (excluding the SWP and Interconnect Assets)	Physical path
Direct Operating Costs <sup>7</sup>	Physical path
SWP Costs	Direct to zone
Costs rolled-in under the System-Wide Benefits Test (Interconnect Assets)	Postage Stamp
Interconnect Zone Residual Costs	Direct to zone
Non-System Assets <sup>8</sup> (return on and of capital)	Postage Stamp
General & Administrative Operating Costs	Postage Stamp
Return on Working Capital	Postage Stamp
Benefit Sharing Allowance and K-Factor Carry-Over	Postage Stamp
Asymmetric risk	Postage stamp
Capital raising costs	Postage stamp

### *Physical Path Cost Allocation*

The aim of this cost allocation procedure is to allocate costs to each User in proportion to that User's use of the transmission system assets. Therefore, a

<sup>7</sup> Direct Operating Costs are the O&M costs less the General & Administrative (or corporate overhead) costs.

<sup>8</sup> Non-System Assets cover land, buildings and office equipment associated with G&A activities.

User who uses a short section of the system will, in general, pay a lower cost than a User who uses a longer section of the system.

The specific assets that are used by a User are determined by the physical path taken by the gas flow from the relevant injection point to the User's off-take. The relevant injection point for each off-take is determined by a process of allocating the forecast injection volumes from each injection point to the off-takes based on the physical flow dynamics of the system, until the injection volumes have been exhausted. The majority of the system is assumed to be supplied from Longford, since this is where the greatest volumes are injected. To the extent that the injection volume forecast is changed, the physical paths will also change.

The transmission system has been divided into 27 pipeline segments, determined by the points at which pipeline diameter changes. Certain pipeline segments are associated with compressors and in-line system regulators. The cost that is associated with each asset segment is determined by a procedure that avoids vintage effects, as follows:

- (a) the total return on and return of assets is determined for all of the pipeline, regulator and compressor assets;
- (b) this cost is allocated amongst the pipeline segments and compressors according to the Optimised Replacement Cost (ORC) of each asset; and
- (c) the direct pipeline operating costs are allocated to each pipeline segment according to the pipeline length. Compressor and regulator operating costs are allocated to each unit directly.

This procedure effectively disregards the vintage of each asset. It also means that refurbishments of the system, such as the Gooding and Lurgi pipeline refurbishments, are allocated across the entire system rather than to specific zones (however capacity augmentations are allocated to the associated pipeline segment in line with the incremental pricing principle in section 8.16 of the Code). This procedure, which is employed in the existing tariff design, is intended to reflect the principle that the tariff for a segment of pipeline should be related to its service potential, and not to its age.

In contrast to the existing tariff methodology, GasNet will allocate direct operating costs to the injection pipelines<sup>9</sup>, including compressor maintenance and fuel costs where relevant.

#### *Allocations to Peak and Annual Flows*

Costs are allocated to Users on the physical path according to the peak and the annual flows through each asset group, where the peak flow is measured as the peak 1 in 2 day flow. The allocation of costs is in the ratio of 60% to the peak flow and 40% to the annual flow. GasNet has allocated costs on the injection pipeline based on the peak flows and allocated costs on the

<sup>9</sup> Indirect costs are all allocated to withdrawals.

remainder of the system in the ratio of 55% to annual flows and 45% to peak flows (generating an average peak allocation of 60%).

#### *Cost Allocation to Off-takes within Pipeline Segments*

Within individual pipeline segments, costs are allocated on the basis of the volumes and distances (TJ-km) flowed within the zone for both the outflows at each off-take and for the flows through the zone. This allocation is done for both peak and annual flows in the ratios discussed above.

The costs are then allocated to each tariff class within a zone as follows:

- (a) a rate (\$/TJ/km) is derived for both peak and annual supply at each off-take based on the TJ-km for both peak and annual flows within the zone to each off-take and through the zone;
- (b) a forecast is made of the Tariff-V and Tariff-D loads at each off-take and the separate components of peak and annual flows within each tariff class;
- (c) the peak and annual rates are applied to the associated components of the Tariff-D and Tariff-V loads at each off-take, to derive the costs to be allocated to these tariff classes at each off-take; and
- (d) the costs within withdrawal zones are aggregated for each tariff class to the zonal level. The total costs within the injection pipelines are aggregated to generate the total injection pipeline cost.

#### *SWP*

A separate regime applies to the SWP, being an injection tariff to recover the entire cost of this pipeline, as discussed in section 5.7 below. The relevant costs that must be recovered from the injection tariff are the asset costs (return on and of capital) and the incremental operating costs associated with the SWP project. This is a direct allocation procedure and the allocation procedure discussed above is not applied to the SWP.

#### *Wollert-Wodonga Pipeline*

The Wollert-Wodonga Pipeline supplies the South and North Hume zones, a large part of the Calder zone, the Murray Valley Pipeline, the Echuca zone, Wodonga and potential exports to NSW. This pipeline also enables imports of gas from Culcairn to the northern zones.

GasNet is offering source-based tariffs in the North Hume, Wodonga and Murray Valley pipelines. That is, there is a relatively high tariff for supply from the south, and a separate discounted tariff for supply from Culcairn, which reflects the significantly shorter transportation distance from Culcairn compared to transportation from the south.

GasNet has calculated the tariffs in these zones as follows. Firstly, the tariffs for supply from the south have been calculated from the recovery of the revenue requirement for each asset group assuming complete supply to these zones from the south (that is, ignoring the fact that actual northerly flows are reduced by flows from Culcairn). This tariff methodology is consistent with

the methodology used on the rest of the system, assuming that gas actually flows to these zones from the south. These tariffs exceed the long-run marginal cost of supply on the Wollert-Wodonga pipeline, as determined from an economic analysis of an incremental capacity augmentation of the pipeline described in the VENCORP APR (section 5.3.3).

Tariffs from Culcairn are evaluated based on the forecast flows and the same pipeline unit transportation costs as determined by the southerly supply scenario. In the case of Wodonga, a small prudent discount is also required to avoid a bypass opportunity. However, because the actual forecast revenues are a combination of Longford supplied revenues and discounted revenues from Culcairn sourced gas deliveries, the total revenue recovery is insufficient. Hence the path-based tariffs on the rest of the system have been marginally increased by approximately \$0.01/GJ to recover the shortfall.

#### *Culcairn Withdrawal Tariff*

While GasNet is not forecasting exports from Culcairn to NSW, it is necessary to publish a tariff in the event that a flow reversal occurs through the Interconnect pipeline. A properly cost-reflective tariff must recognise the increased flows on the Wollert-Wodonga pipeline that would result if gas were to be exported to NSW. GasNet has calculated a notional tariff based on an increase in northerly flows of 3 PJ per annum, and has applied this to an export volume with an 80% load factor.

#### *Indirect Cost Allocation (Postage Stamp)*

The indirect costs are the costs associated with the Non-System Assets (return on and of capital), the return on Working Capital, the General & Administrative operating costs and the capital raising costs. In line with the existing tariff model, these costs will be allocated to all withdrawals on a per GJ basis.

Where a prudent discount is required, GasNet has only allocated indirect costs to the extent that the tariff is competitive with the bypass option.

#### *Interconnect and Springhurst Compressor*

The Interconnect Assets were approved by the Commission in April 2000 to be rolled-in to the GasNet Capital Base under the test in section 8.16(b)(ii) of the Code (often called the system-wide benefits test). The relevant assets are:

- (a) the bulk of the Interconnect Pipeline (92%);
- (b) the Springhurst Compressor; and
- (c) the regulators at Wandong, Barnawartha, Wollert and Ballan.

The remaining 8% of the cost of the Interconnect pipeline is treated as a direct asset recovery for the Culcairn injection tariff.

The Commission's approval permitted GasNet to charge for these assets under a postage-stamp tariff on all withdrawals from the system, with the exception of the WTS.

GasNet proposes to continue with this allocation procedure. However, where a prudent discount is offered, the allocation will be reduced as required.

#### *Benefit Sharing Allowance and K-Factor Carry-Over*

The Benefit Sharing Allowance and K-Factor Carry-Over are costs which are associated with activities during the First Access Arrangement Period, but which can be carried forward into the Second Access Arrangement Period.

The K-Factor carry-over is associated with limitations on the ability to increase tariffs each year in order to recover the K-Factor allowance.

The Benefit Sharing Allowance is a recognition of savings in operating costs made during the First Access Arrangement Period which are shared in the next period.

GasNet will allocate these costs to withdrawals on a postage stamp basis except those subject to a prudent discount.

#### *Across System Flows*

GasNet has adopted a policy of no backhaul charges for flows against the predominant (forecast) flows on injection pipelines. However, as current tariffs stand, a flow from Longford to Iona would only attract the Longford injection charge plus the local withdrawal charge on the SWP. Similarly, a flow from Iona to Longford would only attract the Iona injection charge plus the local withdrawal charges off the Longford pipeline. GasNet will levy an additional charge for carriage through the Metro zone, for withdrawals off the injection pipeline which are linked to injections at an unrelated injection point. This charge will be the Metro zone tariff discounted for the indirect cost allocations (which are already recovered from the withdrawal zones).

### **5.4 Charging Parameters – Withdrawal Zones**

GasNet will charge a flat “Anytime” rate for all withdrawals, to be levied monthly on actual flows, with a specific rate determined for each tariff class, as discussed below in section 5.6 below.

### **5.5 Charging Parameters – Injection Pipelines**

#### *Longford Injection Charging Parameter*

The Longford injection charge will be levied on the ten peak day injections into the pipeline over the winter period (June-September, inclusive).

Withdrawals made in the LaTrobe, Tyers, Lurgi or West Gippsland zones which are matched to Longford injections on the ten peak injection days will receive a matched rebate based on the shorter transmission distance on the injection pipeline.

#### *Port Campbell Injection Charging Parameter*

The Port Campbell injection charge will be levied on the ten peak day flows through the Iona-Lara pipeline over the winter period (June-September, inclusive). These flows will be calculated from the total injections made

within the Port Campbell injection zone, less the withdrawals from the WTS or other off-takes at or in the vicinity of Port Campbell.

A rebate will be given on the injection charge for withdrawals from the SWP where the withdrawal can be matched to an injection at Port Campbell.

#### *Culcairn Injection Charging Parameter*

The Culcairn injection charge will be levied on the ten peak day injections into the Interconnect Pipeline over the winter period (June-September, inclusive). There will be no charge for transportation from Barnawartha to Culcairn.

GasNet is not forecasting any material exports to NSW, hence there is no backhaul tariff from Barnawartha to Culcairn.

Off-takes on the Interconnect Pipeline will receive a rebate on the injection charge. In addition, a matched rebate will be offered to withdrawals in the Wodonga, North Hume, and Murray Valley zones, where these withdrawals are matched to injections at Culcairn.

## **5.6 Tariff Classes**

GasNet will charge a differential withdrawal tariff in relation to Tariff-V and Tariff-D customers to reflect the significantly different load factors for these customer classes. GasNet also proposes to introduce a new tariff class, the Storage Refill Tariff.

In relation to Storage Refill, GasNet will charge the marginal cost of refill, which is principally the cost of additional compressor fuel required to deliver gas to the storage.

## **5.7 Incremental Pricing of the SWP**

### *Proposal*

The SWP will be allocated the full direct costs of the SWP assets (return on and of capital) and the incremental operating costs.

The SWP is expected to carry significant volumes from Iona to Melbourne. GasNet will tariff the SWP as an injection pipeline and apply an injection charge in a similar manner to the injection charge applied to the Longford pipeline (based on the ten peak day flows at the injection point).

Currently, the injections into the SWP are made at the WUGS facility at Iona, which has sufficient installed compressor power to inject gas at the maximum allowable operating pressure of the Iona-Lara pipeline of 10 Mpa. However, in future it is anticipated that there will be a number of other connection points established in the vicinity of Iona which will be capable of injections into the SWP. These connection points will access gas from the new fields being developed at Port Campbell (Santos), Minerva (BHPP), and Thylacine - Geographe (Origin/ Woodside).

Therefore GasNet will levy the injection tariff on any injections made in the vicinity of Iona, where the gas is directed along the SWP towards Lara.



Where the gas is directed to the WTS, (that is, where the injections are matched to withdrawals in the Western system) or off-takes adjacent to Iona, no injection charge will be levied (however, the South West zone withdrawal tariff or the Western tariffs will apply, depending on where the withdrawals are taken out of the system).

#### *Revenue Requirement*

GasNet is conscious of the fact that the SWP is a new pipeline in competition with other gas injection pipelines, and that a reasonable tariff is required in order to encourage growth on the pipeline.

Therefore GasNet has taken three initiatives to generate the lowest possible tariff on the pipeline.

- (a) The economic life of the SWP is set to end in 2052. This is almost 20 years longer than the economic life of the rest of the GasNet pipelines, which will impose a greater level of risk on GasNet.
- (b) The revenue requirement relating to the SWP is levelised over the first 20 years at a flat real rate. This has the effect of deferring revenue recovery to the future, on the assumption that the volumes will grow faster as a result of the lower tariff. Based on this levelisation procedure, the depreciation allowance in the early period of the life of this asset is negative. This means that GasNet is effectively adding capital to the pipeline over time in order to encourage future utilisation.
- (c) GasNet will set an X-factor for the injection charge of zero, which has the effect of reducing the charge in the early years of the Second Access Arrangement Period.

#### *Port Campbell Injection Tariff*

The injection tariff is derived by applying a CPI-X tariff path to the charging parameter for the Port Campbell injection zone. The initial tariff is set so that the NPV of the tariff revenues equates to the NPV of the levelised revenue requirement for the SWP.

Revenues from the WUGS storage refill are not included, as these are designed to match the marginal supply costs from operation of the Brooklyn compressor station.

An allowance is made for revenues from Colac on the Iona-Lara pipeline, which will receive a matched injection rebate owing to its location on the pipeline.

The X-Factor for the SWP will be set at zero in order to encourage early utilization.

## **5.8 Incremental Pricing of the Interconnect Pipeline**

### *Revenue requirement*

The Interconnect pipeline carries gas from the Culcairn injection point to Barnawartha, where it joins the North Hume and Wodonga zones.

The Interconnect Pipeline has been allocated 8% of the direct cost of the Interconnect Pipeline. The remaining 92% and the operating costs are recovered under a postage stamp tariff as approved by the Commission in 2000.

The revenue requirement for the Interconnect Pipeline is calculated using a real, straight-line depreciation profile, as for all other assets in the GasNet system with the exception of the SWP.

### *Culcairn Injection Tariff*

The allocated costs of the Interconnect pipeline are recovered entirely from the Culcairn Injection Tariff. The injection tariff path is derived by applying a CPI-X tariff to the charging parameter for the Culcairn Injection Point. The initial tariff is set so that the NPV of the tariff revenues equates to the NPV of the Interconnect Revenue Requirement.

### *Matched Rebates*

Off-takes on the Interconnect pipeline are given a rebate on the injection charge if the injections are matched to the withdrawals.

## **5.9 Tariff Zones**

### *Retain existing zones*

In the interests of consistency and stability across Access Arrangement periods, GasNet has maintained the current tariff zones. However, GasNet has divided some zones for the purpose of offering a more cost-reflective tariff, where bypass opportunities have been identified. These new zones are described below.

### *Tyers zone*

The current LaTrobe zone includes the large 500 mm lateral from Tyers to Morwell. This asset is effectively charged to all other off-takes within the zone, most of which are directly connected to the Longford injection pipeline. This creates a bias which increases the bypass risk within the LaTrobe zone. Therefore, the Tyers to Morwell pipeline will be separated as a new zone. The main Users on this lateral are the Morwell township and the Jeeralang and Loy Yang power stations.

### *Wodonga zone*

Wodonga is at the extreme northern end of the long North Hume zone and is the largest load in the region. A high pressure distribution pipeline runs from the GasNet off-take through the city and north to the paper mill operated by Norske Skög. The location of this pipeline means that a bypass pipeline

could be constructed from Culcairn directly to the plant and into the Wodonga distribution network. Therefore GasNet has separated the short pipeline from Barnawartha to Wodonga as a new zone. A prudent discount will be offered for injections made at Culcairn, as discussed below.

#### *Dandenong notional zone*

There is a prospect of a new injection point at Pakenham, which would take gas transported from a new field development at Yolla, via a gas processing plant at Lang Lang.

GasNet is not forecasting this project to proceed. However, if it does go ahead, the proponents would have the opportunity to bypass the main GasNet pipeline between Pakenham and Dandenong, and connect directly to the large distribution off-takes at Dandenong (thereby avoiding both the GasNet system and the VENCORP spot market).

GasNet can offer a prudent discount by defining a new zone at Dandenong where the bypass tariff will apply. This is a notional zone because it will only be identified if the Pakenham injection point is actually connected, and the discounted withdrawal tariff will only apply to matched injections at Pakenham. The Pakenham injectors will also attract a discount on the Longford injection tariff commensurate with the distance between Pakenham and Dandenong.

#### *West Gippsland zone*

Currently there are no off-takes on the main pipeline between the LaTrobe and Metro zones. However, in the event that a connection is made in the future, a published tariff will be defined for this zone.

#### *Warrnambool and Koroit*

The WTS will be covered by this Access Arrangement from 2003 and will be designated the "Western zone". The WTS serves five towns along the length of the pipeline, and carries a volume approaching 4 PJ/year.

An interstate pipeline is expected to be built between Iona (or nearby location) and Adelaide by 2004. This pipeline is likely to be installed within the same easement as the WTS for part of its length, and will pass two towns currently served by the WTS.<sup>10</sup>

There is a bypass opportunity at these towns, and GasNet will offer a prudent discount from 2004 as described below. GasNet will not define a new zone, but the two at-risk towns will receive a special published tariff.

### **5.10 The X-Factor and the Initial Tariffs for 2003**

GasNet's tariffs are designed to follow a CPI-X price path. This means that the forecast tariff components are escalated annually by the factor

<sup>10</sup> The new pipeline will use the same easement as the Western system whether it is the Southern Gas Pipeline or the alternative SEAGas proposal.

Forecast CPI \* (1-X).

The initial tariff components are calculated so that the total revenues derived by applying the forecast tariff components to the relevant forecast volume components, has the same NPV over 2003 to 2007 as the forecast target revenues.

The actual escalation of each tariff component is described in Schedule 4 of the Access Arrangement.

The X-Factor is derived as follows:

- (a) an initial estimate of the X-Factor is postulated;
- (b) starting values for 2003 injection and withdrawal tariffs are postulated for each zone;
- (c) the tariffs are escalated at  $(1+CPI)*(1-X)$  for five years, and applied to the forecast volumes to generate the anticipated revenue from each zone;
- (d) the starting tariff values are adjusted so that the NPV of the costs allocated to each zone over the five year period is equal to the NPV of the anticipated revenues within each zone;
- (e) the X-Factor is consistent across all tariffs, except in some zones where special outcomes are sought; and
- (f) if the starting tariffs are considered to have shifted too far from 2002 levels, then a revised X-Factor is chosen, and the process is repeated. Consideration is also given to the longer-term trends in tariffs, with a view to avoiding tariff shocks at the next tariff revision.

GasNet has decided to use a zero X-Factor for the Murray Valley zone in order to encourage connections to natural gas. Similarly, GasNet has selected a zero X-Factor for the Port Campbell injection tariff, to encourage an early build-up of flows on the SWP. A zero X-Factor is also applied at Wodonga and the Western Zone towns of Warrnambool and Koroit, where a prudent discount has been applied.

With these exceptions, GasNet has applied an X-Factor of 5 % for all remaining tariffs.

### **5.11 Brooklyn Loop**

The Brooklyn Loop is an augmentation of the SWP which allows greater injections from Iona into Melbourne. Hence the incremental revenues associated with this pipeline are the additional Port Campbell injection revenues derived from the incremental flows along the SWP. GasNet has calculated the (un-augmented) Port Campbell injection tariff (see section 5.7 above) based on a capacity limit of 250 TJ/day. This tariff has then been applied to the additional SWP capacity provided by the Brooklyn Loop, which is up to an additional 70 TJ/day. The NPV of the incremental revenues earned from the Loop is \$20.7 million in 2007. This value is treated as New Facilities Investment for the purposes of calculating the GasNet tariffs.

## 5.12 Prudent Discounts

### *LaTrobe Zone Discount*

The LaTrobe withdrawal zone is a 65 km pipeline from Longford to the end of the duplicated section of the Longford injection pipeline, just short of the Gooding compressor station. The zone contains the towns of Sale, Rosedale, Traralgon, and the large Paper-Linx paper plant at Maryvale. There is also a private pipeline lateral to the Edison Mission peaker plant. The only physical GasNet withdrawal asset within the withdrawal zone is the short lateral to Maryvale.

The customers at these off-takes must pay the Longford injection charge (discounted to reflect the lower transportation distance) plus a withdrawal charge that recovers the cost of the zonal assets and a contribution to overheads.

It is relatively straight-forward to construct a bypass pipeline from Longford to Maryvale, servicing the towns en route. GasNet has designed and costed such a bypass pipeline, and calculated an estimate of the bypass tariff. Since VENCORP is not proposing to discount its tariff, GasNet has derived the prudent discount by deducting an amount equal to the forecast VENCORP fees and charges.

Based on this analysis, the proposed GasNet discounted tariff (including both injection and withdrawal charges) is:

Tariff-D            \$0.06/GJ in 2003

Tariff-V            \$0.07/GJ in 2003

These tariffs escalate at CPI-5% because the bypass risk increases as the load grows over time (reflecting the economies of scale in pipeline construction).

Analysis shows that the calculated bypass tariff exceeds the combination of the injection charge and the withdrawal charge, if overhead allocations are excluded. Therefore GasNet believes the discount is prudent.

The discounted tariff will be implemented as a matched rebate contingent on injections at Longford. The matched injection rebate will be retained, and the LaTrobe withdrawal zone tariff will be adjusted down to give a combined injection and withdrawal tariff equal to the prudent discount.

### *Wodonga Prudent Discount*

Albury/Wodonga is currently supplied from the GasNet system at Wodonga. The city gate is approximately 10 km from the point where the Interconnect pipeline joins the main Wollert-Wodonga pipeline.

The Wodonga gas volume is approximately 5.0 PJ/year and growing. The largest industrial consumer is the ANM paper plant (now owned by Norske-Skög), which is located to the north of the city of Albury/Wodonga. It is supplied by the Origin Energy distribution pipeline which runs from the Wodonga city gate, under the Murray River, and through the city proper, before terminating at the plant.

It is possible to connect directly to the ANM plant and the Origin distribution system by constructing a 41 km bypass pipeline from Culcairn. This poses an immediate bypass threat.

GasNet has evaluated the cost of a bypass pipeline and derived the bypass tariff. VENCORP is not offering a discount on the VENCORP fees, so an amount equal to the VENCORP tariff has been deducted to give the following discount tariffs:

Tariff-D            \$0.14/GJ in 2003

Tariff-V            \$0.22/GJ in 2003

The marginal cost tariff is the sum of the Culcairn injection tariff, and the Wodonga withdrawal tariff, excluding allocated overheads. This tariff is significantly less than the required discount tariff, therefore the discount can be considered as prudent.

The tariff will be implemented by adjusting down the matched withdrawal rebate for the Wodonga zone (by allocating a lower share of overheads than other zones receive). The Culcairn injection tariff will be retained, and the withdrawal tariff will be set so that the combined tariff equals the prudent discount.

#### *Western Zone Discount*

The new Western Zone covers five towns in the Port Campbell to Portland area with consumption of approximately (forecast 2003) 4 PJ of gas. The system consists of 216 km of pipelines, and is valued at about \$9m. The current tariff is approximately \$0.50/GJ.

However there is a bypass threat posed by the proposed Iona to Adelaide pipeline. There are currently two proposals, both expecting first flows in January 2004. The Southern Gas Pipeline follows the pipeline easement to within 20 km of Portland, and then diverges towards Adelaide. It passes the city gates for Warrnambool and Koroit. The SEAGas pipeline follows the Western System easement past Warrnambool, and diverges towards Adelaide in the vicinity of Koroit.

The economies of scale of the South Australian pipeline are such that the owners can offer a significant discount over the current tariffs for the Western zone. However, there will be costs to install connections and regulators operating at 15MPa, which is the anticipated MAOP of the South Australian pipeline.

The volumes at Warrnambool and Koroit constitute 55% of the total volumes on the Western System. Therefore there is a significant bypass threat.

GasNet proposes to offer a prudent discount in the Western Zone. This will minimise the risk that the Western Zone customers will shift to the competing pipeline.

A bypass tariff can be calculated for each town under threat in the Western Zone. Based on these tariffs, one can calculate the maximum revenues that would be earned from the Western Zone at the discounted tariffs. These can

be compared to the marginal costs of continued supply to the existing loads. If the discounted revenues exceed the marginal costs then a prudent discount can be offered.

GasNet considers that the towns of Portland, Cobden and Hamilton are not at risk of bypass under current load forecasts. However, the towns of Warrnambool and Koroit could access a better tariff from the Iona to Adelaide pipeline than that offered on the GasNet system (under the standard cost allocation procedures on the GasNet system).

Analysis shows that an adequate discount can be offered by simply reallocating overheads away from the Western Zone . Therefore GasNet considers that the proposed discounts are prudent, and proposes to offer a discount to the towns of Warrnambool and Koroit. In order to minimise the cost burden on other Users, GasNet will only offer the discount from 2004.<sup>11</sup>

The proposed prudent discount tariffs (in \$2003) are:

*Warrnambool*

Tariff-D        \$0.06/GJ

Tariff-V        \$0.07/GJ

*Koroit*

Tariff-D        \$0.19/GJ

Tariff-V        \$0.27/GJ

These tariffs are escalated at CPI each year.

*Dandenong Bypass Tariff*

GasNet is aware of a proposal by Origin Energy to develop the Yolla offshore field in Bass Strait and to deliver this gas to Victoria by undersea pipeline. Current indications are that this gas will be processed at Lang Lang and delivered for injection into the main GasNet transmission pipeline at Pakenham.

It is GasNet's understanding that Origin plans to deliver up to 20 PJ/year (68 TJ/day) into the GasNet system from 2004. However Origin has the option to extend their transmission pipeline to Dandenong, located approximately 29 km from Pakenham. Dandenong is the site of a number of large off-takes into the Origin distribution network. Origin has the opportunity to bypass both the GasNet system and the VENCORP gas market.

GasNet has estimated the cost of a bypass pipeline and associated regulators and metering facilities at Dandenong, and calculated a bypass tariff between Pakenham and Dandenong. This tariff exceeds the marginal long-run tariff

<sup>11</sup> The prudent discount is offered on the LaTrobe and Wodonga zones from 2003 because the analysis shows that this is the efficient tariff. However the Western System bypass is not a case of matching the efficient tariff. It is a response to the South Australian pipeline being constructed adjacent to a Western System pipeline.

through the GasNet system, and therefore GasNet contends that this tariff will constitute a prudent discount.

The tariff is contingent on the project actually proceeding. There is no allowance in GasNet tariffs for the reduction in GasNet revenues which will result from this project.

The tariff will be implemented as an injection tariff at Pakenham and a discounted withdrawal tariff at Dandenong. The injection tariff is determined as a proportion of the Longford injection tariff, pro-rated on the distance between Pakenham and Dandenong. The remainder of the bypass tariff will be levied as a discount on the Metro withdrawal tariff. However this discount will only be available for withdrawals at the Dandenong off-takes.

### **5.13 Tariff path**

The GasNet Tariff employs a 'price path' methodology. This means that GasNet will specify:

- (a) a set of initial tariff components applicable to the year 2003, and
- (b) a procedure to adjust tariffs components, applicable to each subsequent year.

Once these elements have been determined, the initial tariff components and the tariff adjustment procedure are not altered over the term of the Second Access Arrangement Period, except through a revision application approved by the ACCC under section 2 of the Code.

The fixing of the price path constitutes an incentive mechanism. The tariff adjustment procedure is not altered if actual volumes or actual costs differ from the initial forecast, except as provided for in the pass-through procedures set out in the Access Arrangement. This methodology exposes GasNet to both volume and cost risk, and removes these risks from GasNet customers.

The extent to which GasNet is exposed to volume risk is determined by the mechanics of the tariff adjustment procedure. GasNet has chosen a price path based on a form of average revenue price control. This means that the tariff components will be set each year to achieve a prescribed average revenue. Therefore, the GasNet revenues are tied to the actual delivered volumes through the GasNet system, which may vary from the initial forecast values.

The average revenue price path is calculated in advance (in real terms) based on the forecast volumes and target revenues. These target average revenues are published in the tariff schedule for each year subsequent to 2003. The price path is locked-in except for annual adjustments for actual inflation, and to correct for any under- or over-recovery of revenues in the preceding year. This annual adjustment for the under or over-recovery of revenues in the previous year is called the PPT factor. If GasNet under/over recovers revenues in a given year in relation to the prescribed average revenue for that year, then GasNet is permitted to increase/(decrease) tariff components in the subsequent year to correct for the under/over recovery.



GasNet has operated under a similar price control mechanism during the First Access Arrangement Period. However, as a result of individual tariff component rebalancing constraints, and given significant under-recoveries of revenue in each year, GasNet has accumulated a large correction factor which has not been recovered during the First Access Arrangement Period. GasNet proposes to remove these constraints in the Second Access Arrangement Period so that GasNet revenues are always brought back to the prescribed average revenue after no more than one year.

With respect to the individual tariff components, the standard procedure is to escalate each component annually by the CPI-X factor, where there is a specific X for each tariff component. However, it is possible that this procedure will not lead to the correct average revenue, as described above (that is, the published average revenue, as adjusted for actual inflation and for any over/under recoveries from the previous year). This will require an adjustment to the tariff components. GasNet proposes that, in the first instance, the tariff components for any year will be adjusted by an equal percentage increase-(decrease) above the tariff components derived by applying the standard CPI-X formula to the previous year's tariff components. The adjustment will be made to ensure that the average revenue expected for that year will be equal to the published average revenue, adjusted for actual inflation, and for any over/under recoveries in the previous year. Because all tariff components are adjusted by the same percentage, the tariff relativities between customers will be maintained. However, GasNet also believes that it is appropriate to retain some flexibility to rebalance the relative weights of one tariff component against another, where for example GasNet believes that gas volumes are being inhibited by the tariff design. Given the overall average revenue target, GasNet will only benefit from this procedure where it believes that the volume growth (and hence welfare gain) expected from a reduction in one tariff component is greater than the volume decline expected from the increases in other tariff components.

Hence GasNet proposes that any tariff component can be adjusted by up to 2% above the equal percentage change discussed above. This will require a decrease in other tariff components relative to the equal percentage change.

If there is an under/over recovery in the final year of the Second Access Arrangement Period, then the correction will be carried forward into the Third Access Arrangement Period.

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## **6 Key Performance Indicators**

### **6.1 Key Performance Indicators**

GasNet has collected data from seven Australian pipeline companies using information published in Access Arrangements and Access Arrangement Information submitted by those companies and in the Commission's draft and final decisions on those Access Arrangements. The data represents the forecast operating costs in 2003, net of working capital and compressor fuel costs.

Working capital costs have been excluded from the KPI statistics as they are unique to each pipeline company and are relatively small in magnitude.

Compressor fuel costs have also been excluded from the KPI statistics as these costs are not within the control of GasNet (compressor operations are controlled by VENCORP). A comparison of compressor fuel costs is also complicated by the fact that other pipeline companies have a range of inconsistent methods to fund the cost of compressor fuels (for example, some companies require the shipper to provide the fuel used in operations).

Maintenance capital expenditure has not been included within the review of operating expenses. GasNet submits that, although maintenance capital expenditure and operating expenditure are to some extent interchangeable, the level of capital expenditure is very small (and will be until transmission assets are near the end of their operating lives) and that where maintenance capital expenditure is required, the projects can be identified and justified on a case by case basis.

GasNet's forecast costs for 2003 have been adjusted to provide for a fairer inter-company comparison. Firstly, an allowance for gas control has been added to GasNet's costs (a function that other companies perform but which is performed by VENCORP on the GasNet system), and the large increment in insurance cost has also been excluded for the purposes of inter-company comparisons.

Cost comparisons between companies require the use of normalising factors which, to the extent possible, attempt to place the companies on a common footing. The normalising factors consist of various measures of workload and attempt to represent the cost drivers of a particular company.

KPIs are only relevant to the extent that the cost drivers are correctly selected and applied. The value of KPI analysis is limited to the extent that the relevant cost driver is not always available for all companies in the sample.

Different activity costs incurred by GasNet will be subject to different cost drivers. Therefore, in many cases, the costs should be broken down into the main activities and the appropriate driver selected for each activity. Unfortunately, there is limited disaggregation of the data available in public documents. The publicly available data consists of "General and Administrative" (G&A) costs (also known as general overheads) and "Operating and Maintenance Costs" (O&M).

Publicly available data in relation to the Moomba-Adelaide pipeline was limited to total operating costs (ie it was not disaggregated into G&A and O&M). Therefore, GasNet has only included this pipeline in the KPIs relating to total operating costs.

GasNet has employed drivers suggested by the benchmarking consultants and those employed in previous Access Arrangement submissions.

GasNet has collated the following KPIs based on publicly available data:

- (a) operating costs per GJ of gas delivered;
- (b) operating costs as a percentage of capital investment;
- (c) O&M costs per metre of pipeline;

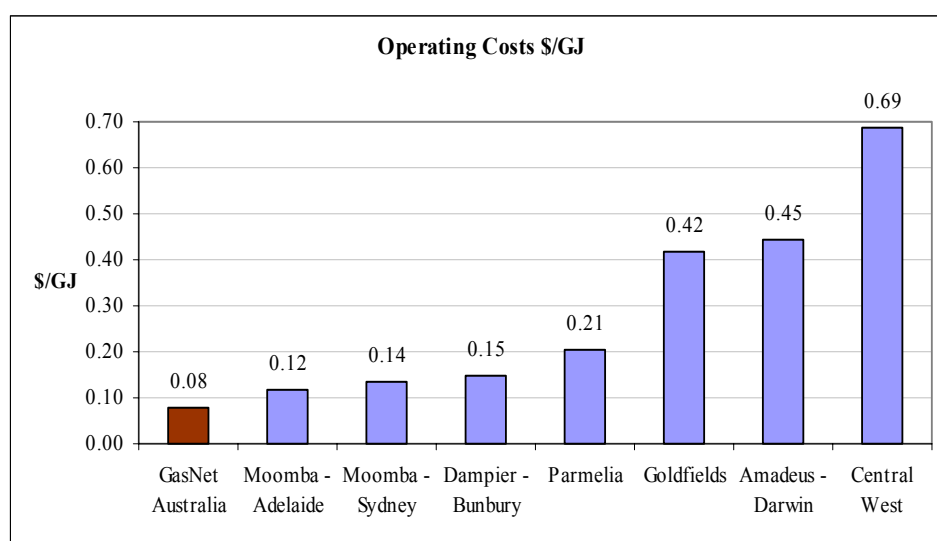
- (d) G&A costs per GJ of gas delivered; and
- (e) O&M costs as a percentage of capital investment.

There is no disaggregated data in the sample in relation to compressor maintenance costs. However, GasNet has calculated its compressor costs as a percentage of the capital invested in the compressors as discussed below.

*Operating costs per GJ of gas delivered*

Gas deliveries is the simplest measure of the output of a transmission company. Figure 6-1 below illustrates that on this broad measure of efficiency, GasNet is one of the leading companies.

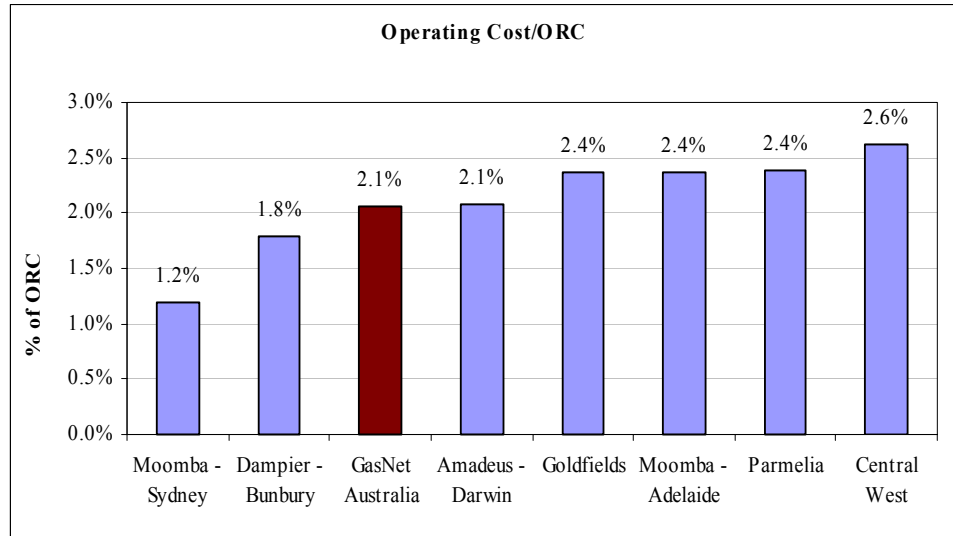
**Figure 6-1: Operating costs per GJ delivered**



*Operating costs as a % of capital investment*

Another measure of efficiency is operating costs as a percentage of capital investment. This measure capture both the length of the pipeline system, and the number and size of the compressor stations installed. As indicated in Figure 6-2 below. GasNet performs well in relation to other Australian pipeline companies on this measure.

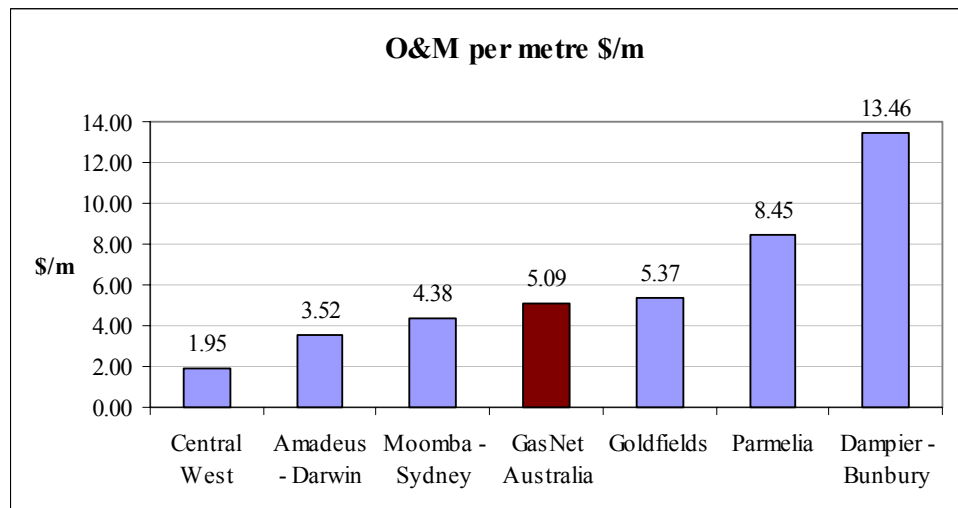
**Figure 6-2: Operating Cost/Capital Investment**



*O&M costs per metre of pipeline*

One of the simplest measures of O&M efficiency is cost per metre of pipeline. Figure 6-3 below shows that, on this measure, GasNet sits in the mid range of the scale. One of the reasons that GasNet has higher costs is that it operates a higher number of compressor stations (ie five) each with multiple compressors installed, and therefore incurs higher compressor maintenance costs (which is a major component of O&M costs). In addition, GasNet has a higher percentage of its pipelines located in urban and intensive farming areas where the cost of owning and maintaining pipelines is considerably higher than in less developed areas.

**Figure 6-3: O&M costs per metre of pipeline**

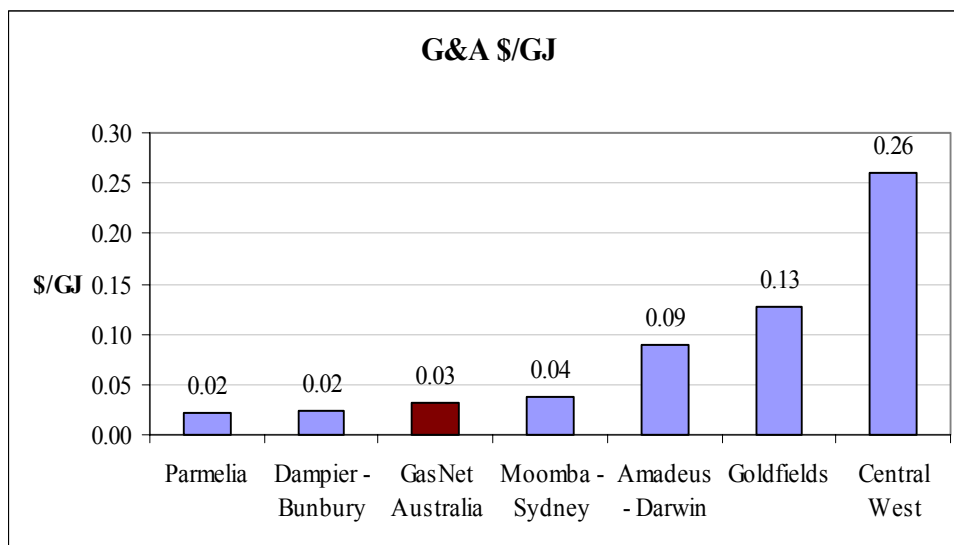


*G&A costs per GJ of gas delivered*

G&A expenses are unlikely to be related to the distance the gas travels. A more appropriate measure is gas volumes delivered. Figure 6-4 below

illustrates that, on this measure, GasNet performs very well in comparison to other Australian pipeline companies.

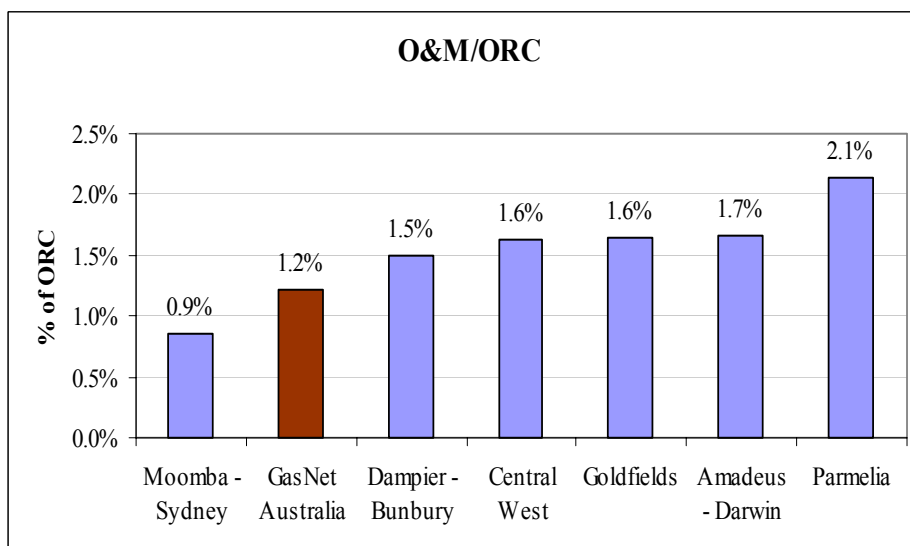
**Figure 6-4: G&A costs per GJ delivered**



*O&M costs as a percentage of capital investment*

The overall investment in an asset is often taken as representative of the workload required to operate and maintain the asset. Maintenance costs are related to the length of the pipeline and the number and complexity of compressor stations and hence to the capital invested in the assets.

**Figure 6-5: O&M costs as a percentage of capital investment**



The Moomba-Sydney pipeline performs somewhat better than GasNet and the other companies represented in the study. This may be related to the lower level of compression on the Moomba-Sydney pipeline in comparison to the GasNet system and the comparatively open, less developed country on the pipeline route. In addition, the pipelines differ significantly in the amount of linepack available, which bears strongly on the required standards of

maintenance and response capability. The Moomba-Sydney pipeline has three days of linepack available, whereas GasNet has only four hours of linepack, which imposes an extremely short response time on GasNet in the event of an incident.

#### *Compressor costs as a percentage of capital investment*

The Commission has previously cited AGA studies which suggests that compressor maintenance costs would be typically between 3% and 6% of the capital investment in the compressors.<sup>12</sup> GasNet has calculated its compressor maintenance costs to be between 3.5% and 4.0% of capital investment. This puts GasNet at the lower end of the range indicated in the AGA report.

## **6.2 Benchmarking report**

GasNet commissioned a detailed Benchmarking Report from international consultants Cap Gemini. The report contains confidential data from GasNet and from a wide sample of Australian and international gas transmission companies. The report has been provided to the Commission on a confidential basis.

The study is based on GasNet's actual operating results for the year 2000 and also includes historical 1999 and projected year 2001 results. The sample consists of 24 companies from Australia, Canada, USA and South America. The study compares GasNet's results against four specific "peer group" companies, as well against the results of all 24 participating companies.

The following activities have been selected from the Benchmarking Report as most representative of the cost efficiency of GasNet:

- (a) G&A expenses per million cubic meters delivered;
- (b) pipeline maintenance expenses; and
- (c) compressor maintenance expenses.

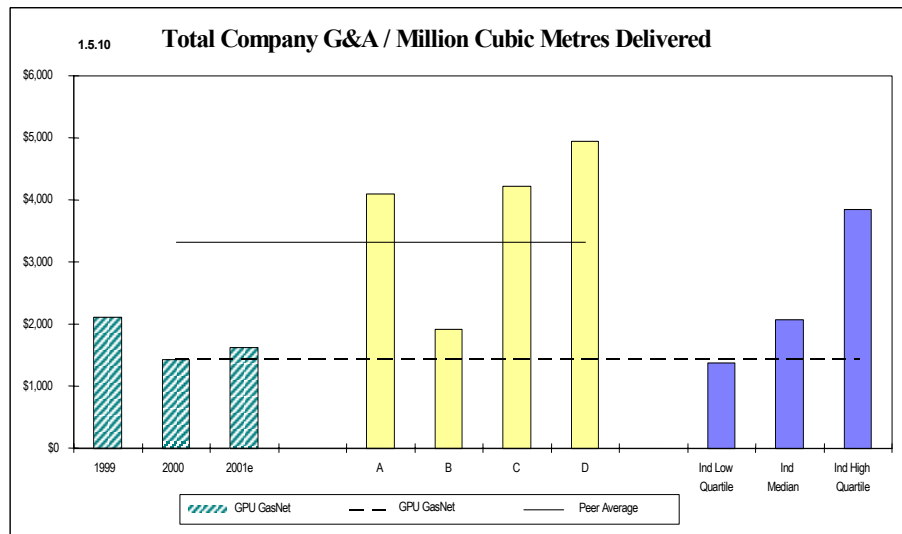
These costs were defined specifically to enable intercompany comparisons and are not defined in the same way as the overall activity costs referred to above.

#### *G&A expenses*

The Benchmarking Report concluded that GasNet's overall G&A expenses per million cubic metres delivered were 55% lower than the average of the peer group. GasNet's unit costs fell very close to the lowest or best quartile of all participating companies. Figure 6-6 compares GasNet's total G&A costs per million cubic metres of gas delivered to the other companies in the sample.

<sup>12</sup> See ACCC, *MSP Gas Access Arrangement* (Draft, 2000), p 89.

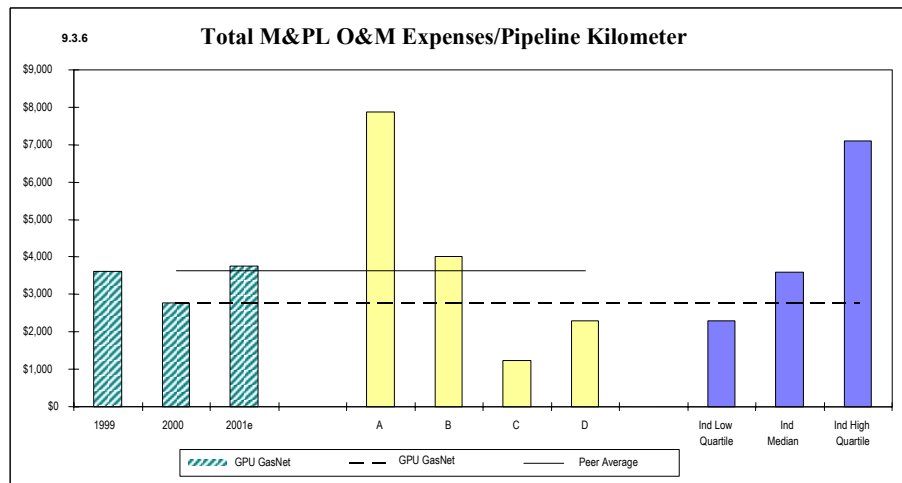
**Figure 6-6: General & Administration Expense per Million Cubic Metres Delivered**



*Pipeline maintenance expenses per pipeline kilometre*

The Benchmarking Report analysed pipeline maintenance expenses on the basis of the length of the pipeline system. The Benchmarking Report indicates that this is lower than the peer group average and the all company median. Figure 6-7 compares GasNet’s pipeline maintenance expenses per kilometre with those of the other companies in the sample.

**Figure 6-7: Measurement and Pipeline Expenses per Kilometre of Pipeline**



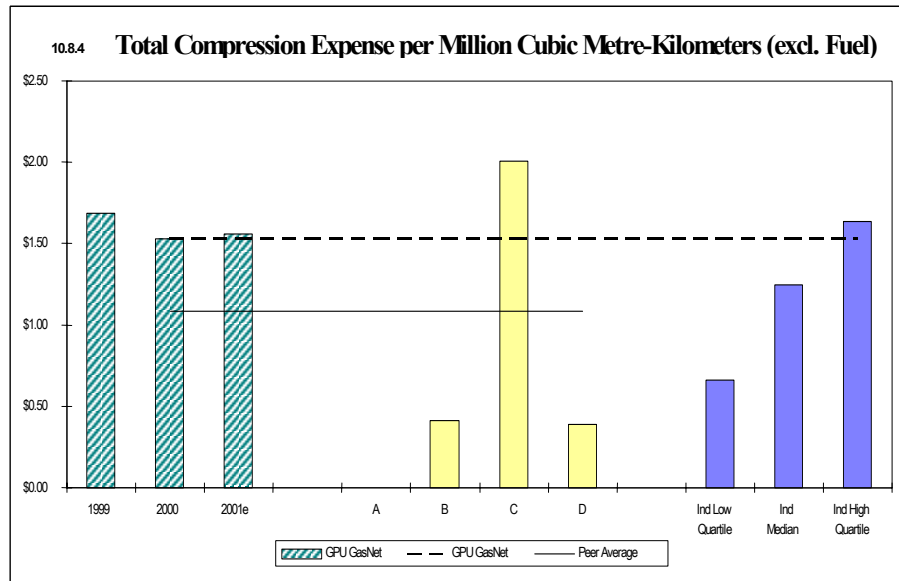
*Compressor Maintenance Expenses*

The primary normalising factor used in the Benchmarking Report to analyse compressor related costs was volume-distance (million cubic metre-kilometres). Compression expenses were examined without a fuel component.

The Benchmarking Report found GasNet’s compression costs to be marginally higher than the median cost for the industry sample.

However, the Benchmarking Report notes that GasNet has a very low compressor utilisation factor, reflecting its seasonal demand patterns. Intermittent stop-start operation leads to higher costs compared to other companies. The Benchmarking Report also notes that some of the companies in the study operate long haul systems with very high unit horsepower and high utilisation rates. This tends to put GasNet at a competitive disadvantage when its costs are compared to the all company group. Figure 6-8 compares GasNet's compressor maintenance expenses per million cubic metre-kilometre with those of the other companies in the sample.

**Figure 6-8: Compression Expense per Million Cubic Metres - Kilometres - excluding Fuel**





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## 7 Interpretation

### 7.1 Glossary

**Access Arrangement** means the draft Access Arrangement lodged by GasNet with the Commission on or about 31 March 2002.

**Access Arrangement Period** has the meaning given in the Code.

**AA Information** means the Access Arrangement Information (as defined in the Code) lodged by GasNet with the Commission on or about 31 March 2002.

**Capital Base** has the meaning given in the Code.

**Code** means the National Third Party Access Code for Natural Gas Pipeline Systems.

**Commission** means the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

**Covered Pipeline** has the meaning given in the Code.

**Depreciation Schedule** has the meaning given in the Code.

**EGP** means the Eastern Gas Pipeline operated by Duke Energy running from Longford, Victoria to Horsely Park, NSW.

**Final Decision** means the final decision on the TPA and VENC Corp Access Arrangements issued by the Commission on 6 October 1998.

**First Access Arrangement Period** means in relation to the PTS, the period commencing on 15 March 1999 and ending on 31 December 2002 and in relation to the WTS, the period commencing on 1 January 1999 and ending on 31 December 2002.

**Fixed Principles** has the meaning given in the Code.

**GasNet** means, subject to section 1.3.4 of this submission, GasNet Australia (Operations) Pty Ltd ABN 65 083 009 278 (formerly GPU GasNet Pty Ltd).

**GHD** means the engineering consulting firm, Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey.

**GNS** means GasNet's Transmission System.

**Interconnect Assets** means the Interconnect Pipeline, the Springhurst Compressor and the Interconnect Valves.

**Interconnect Pipeline** means the pipeline constructed by GasNet from Barnawartha in Victoria to Culcairn in New South Wales.

**Interconnect Valves** means the valves associated with the Interconnect Pipeline, comprising three remotely operated Barnawartha, Wandong and Ballan and an automated valve at Wollert.

**KPI** means key performance indicator.

**Market Carriage** has the same meaning given in the Code.

**New Facilities Investment** has the meaning given in the Code.

**Non Capital Costs** has the meaning given in the Code.

**ODRC** means optimised depreciated replacement cost.

**ORC** means optimised replacement cost.

**Pipeline** has the meaning given in the Code.

**Prospective Users** has the meaning given in the Code.

**PTS** means the principal transmission system and has the meaning given in the PTS Access Arrangement.

**PTS Access Arrangement** means the Access Arrangement by GasNet for the PTS which was first approved by the Commission for the period 15 March 1999 to 31 December 2002.

**Rate of Return** has the meaning given in the Code.

**Reference Tariff** has the meaning given in the Code.

**Second Access Arrangement Period** means the Access Arrangement Period for GasNet commencing on 1 January 2003.

**Services** has the meaning given in the Code.

**Service Provider** has the meaning given in the Code.

**Springhurst Compressor** means the gas compressor located at Springhurst in Victoria, comprising a centrifugal compressor unit and powered by a Solar Turbines Centaur gas turbine.

**SWP** means the pipelines in Southwest Victoria comprising the South West Link (from Lara near Geelong to Iona near Port Campbell), the Western System Link (from Iona to North Paaratte, both near Port Campbell) and associated facilities.

**Total Revenue** has the meaning given in the Code.

**TPA** means Transmission Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd (ACN 079 089 268).

**User** has the meaning given in the Code.

**VENCorp** means Victorian Energy Networks Corporation.

**VENCorp APR** means the Annual Gas Planning Review 2002 to 2006, Victorian Energy Networks Corporation, November 2001.

**WACC** means weighted average cost of capital.

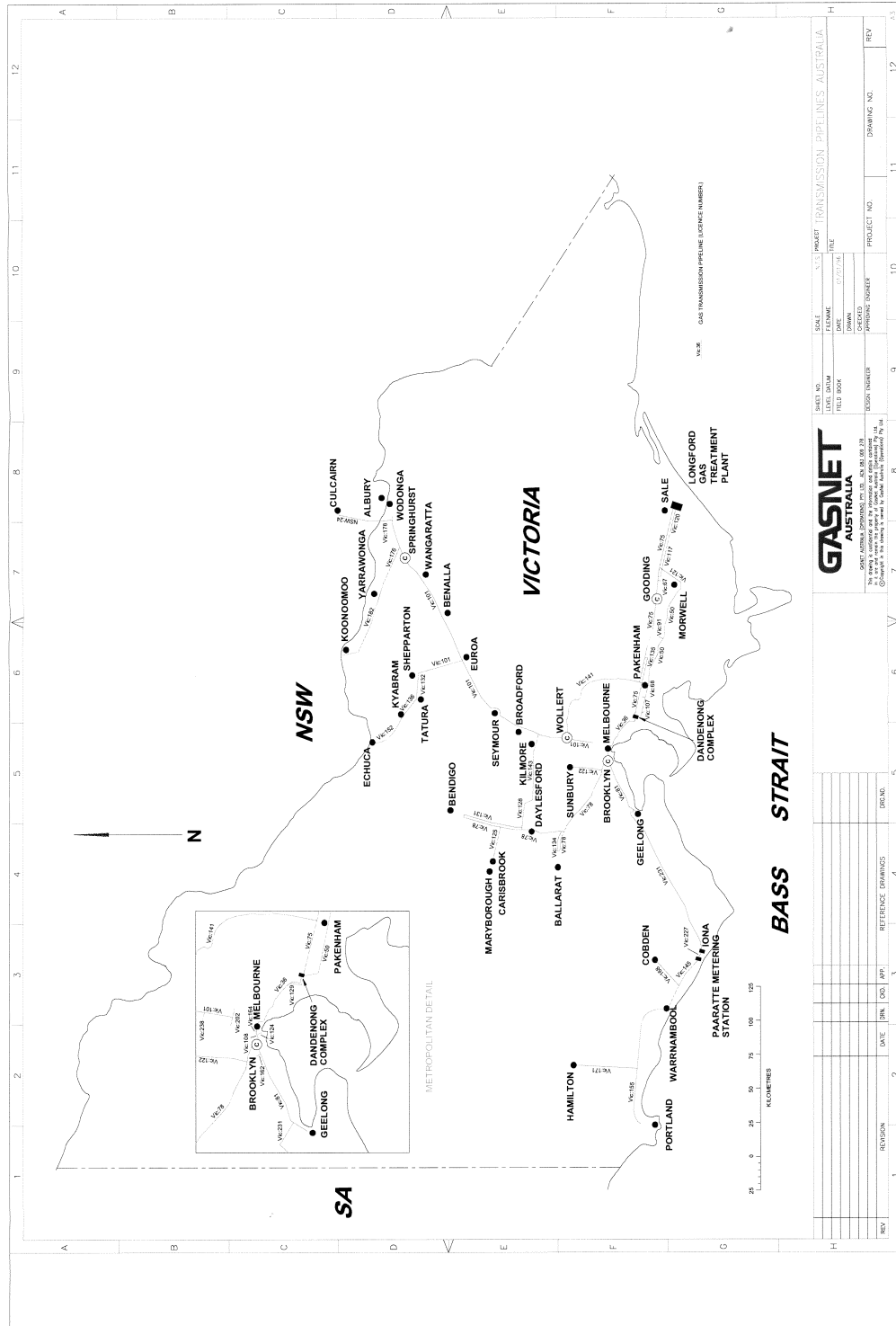
**WTS** means the Western Transmission System as defined in the WTS Access Arrangement.

**WTS Access Arrangement** means the Access Arrangement by GasNet for the WTS which was approved by the Commission for the period 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2002.

**WUGS** means the Western Underground Gas Storage located at Iona.

# GasNet Australia Access Arrangement Information

## Schedule 1 - Description of GNS



## Description of Pipelines

<b>Pipeline Licence</b>	<b>Location/Route</b>	<b>Length (km)</b>	<b>Pipe Diameter (mm)</b>	<b>MAOP (kPa)</b>
	<b><i>Longford to Dandenong and Wollert System</i></b>			
Vic:68	Healesville-Koo-Wee-Rup Rd	1.2	80	2760
Vic:91	Anderson St, Warragul	4.8	100	2760
Vic:107	Pound Rd to Tuckers Rd	2.0	100	2760
Vic:50	Supply to Jeeralang	0.4	300	2760
Vic:50	Morwell to Dandenong	126.8	450	2760
Vic:75	Longford to Dandenong	174.2	750	6890
Vic:117	Rosedale to Tyers	34.3	750	7070
Vic:120	Longford to Rosedale	30.5	750	7070
Vic:135	Bunyip to Pakenham	18.7	750	7070
Vic:141	Pakenham to Wollert	93.1	750	6890
Vic:121	Tyers to Morwell	15.7	500	7070
Vic:67	Maryvale	5.4	150	6890
	<b><i>Wollert to Wodonga/Echuca/Bendigo System</i></b>			
Vic:101	Keon Park to Wollert	14.1	600	2760
Vic:202	Keon Park East - Keon Park West	0.6	450	2760
Vic:101	Wollert to Wodonga	269.4	300	7400
Vic:101	Euroa to Shepparton	34.5	200	7400
Vic:132	Shepparton to Tatura	16.2	200	7390
Vic:136	Tatura to Kyabram	21.3	200	7390
Vic:152	Kyabram to Echuca	30.7	150	7390
Vic:143	Wandong to Kyneton	59.5	300	7390
Vic:128	Mt Franklin to Kyneton	24.5	300	7390
Vic:131	Mt Franklin to Bendigo	50.8	300	7390
Vic:78	Ballan to Bendigo	90.8	150	7390
Vic:125	Guildford to Maryborough	31.4	150	7390
Vic:238	Somerton Pipeline	3.4	250	2760
Vic:176	Chiltern Valley to Rutherglen	14.7	200	7400
Vic:182	Rutherglen to Koonoomoo	88.8	200	7400
Vic:178	Barnawartha to Murray River	5.5	450	10200
NSW:24	Murray River to Culcairn	57.0	450	10200
	<b><i>Brooklyn to Ballarat System</i></b>			
Vic:78	Brooklyn to Ballan	66.6	200	7390
Vic:78	Ballan to Ballarat	22.7	150	7390
Vic:134	Ballan to Ballarat	22.8	300	7390
Vic:122	Derrimut to Sunbury	24.0	150	7390

<b>Pipeline Licence</b>	<b>Location/Route</b>	<b>Length (km)</b>	<b>Pipe Diameter (mm)</b>	<b>MAOP (kPa)</b>
	<b><i>Brooklyn to Geelong System</i></b>			
Vic:81	Brooklyn to Corio	50.7	350	7390
Vic:162	Laverton to BHP	1.6	150	2760
	<b><i>Dandenong to West Melbourne / Brooklyn System</i></b>			
Vic:36	Dandenong to West Melbourne	36.2	750	2760
Vic:108	South Melbourne to Brooklyn	12.8	750	2760
Vic:129	Princess Hwy to Henty St	0.2	500	2760
Vic:129	Dandenong to Princess Hwy	5.0	750	2760
Vic:36	Princess Hwy to Regent St	0.8	200	2760
Vic:164	Supply to Bay St To Unichema	0.4	150	2760
Vic:124	Supply to Newport Power Station	1	450	2760
	<b><i>Western Network</i></b>			
Vic:145	Paaratte to Allansford	33.3	150	7400
Vic:155	Allansford to Portland	100.4	150	9890
Vic:168	Curdievale to Cobden	27.7	150	9890
Vic:171	Codrington to Hamilton	54.6	150	9890
	<b><i>South West Pipeline</i></b>			
Vic:227	Iona to Paaratte	7.8	150	7400
Vic:231	Iona to Lara	143.9	500	10200