



The Hon Paul Lynch MP

Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Commerce
Minister for Energy
Minister for Public Sector Reform
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

V10/1850

Mr James Cox
A/Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

COPY

Dear Mr Cox

Thank you for your letter of 22 June 2010 regarding the energy price comparison service and retail price disclosure requirements.

I am pleased to advise my approval of the Guidelines submitted by the Tribunal, and request that the Guidelines be placed on the Tribunal's website on 1 July 2010.

As you may be aware, the *Electricity and Gas Supply Legislation Amendment (Retail Price Disclosures and Comparisons) Act 2010* (the Act) has been passed by NSW Parliament. In recognition that the commencement of the online price comparison service is dependent upon a number of factors, including the receipt of pricing information from retailers and sufficient user testing, the Act will be commenced in two stages.

From 1 July 2010, the retailers' obligations to provide pricing information to IPART and publish this information on their websites will commence, together with the Guidelines. The date of commencement for the provisions relating to the online price comparison service (specifically sections 181A(3) and (4)(c) of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* and section 76A(3) and (4)(c) of the *Gas Supply Act 1996*) will be determined following confirmation from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) Secretariat as to when the online service is ready to launch.

I am advised that a tentative date of 30 July 2010 has been agreed between Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW) and the IPART Secretariat for the launch of the online service, provided certain milestones are met. It would be appreciated if the IPART Secretariat could confirm this date with I&I NSW as soon as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank IPART for its work on these important measures to date, which will improve transparency for small energy customers and further encourage the development of the NSW retail energy market.

Yours sincerely

Paul Lynch MP
Minister for Energy