



New South Wales

Joseph Tripodi

Minister for Energy

Minister for Ports and Waterways

Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Reform

DEUS Ref: S06/160

Dr Michael Keating
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

Dear Dr Keating

Pursuant to section 43EA(1) of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*, I am referring to the Tribunal, for investigation and report, the determination of regulated retail tariffs and charges in each distribution area in New South Wales for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2010. Please find further details in the attached Terms of Reference to the Tribunal.

I confirm that an amendment regulation will be made shortly to extend to 30 June 2010 the operation of Part 4, Division 5 of the Act, under which the Tribunal's determination may be made.

I note that the current default tariffs for gas small retail customers under voluntary pricing principles and price paths agreed between the Tribunal and individual gas standard retail suppliers expire on 30 June 2007. I further request that the Tribunal continue regulating default tariffs for small retail customers and ensure either new voluntary pricing principles or a gas pricing order under section 27 of the *Gas Supply Act 1996* operate until 30 June 2010, taking into consideration the objects under Section 3 of that Act.

If you require further information in this regard, please contact Ms Dinah Traurig, Manager Competition Strategy, at the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability on 8281 7316.

I look forward to the Tribunal's final report on both these matters by 14 June 2007.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joe Tripodi'.

Joe Tripodi
Minister for Energy

30 JUN 2006