Macquarie *Generation*

Dr Tom **Parry**
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
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Dear Dr Parry

REGULATED RETAIL TARIFFS TO APPLY FROM 1 JULY 2004 TO 30 JUNE 2007

Macquarie Generation **is** pleased to provide the following submission to the Tndependent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's review of regulated retail tariffs for small electricity customers in New **South** Wales.

The terms of reference for the review include a number of references to the need for regulated tariffs to be set at cost reflective levels in order to encourage retail competition. Macquarie **Generation** supports **the** Government's decision to provide a regulated tariff as a default or safety net arrangement following the commencement **of** a new era in competition for household and **small** business consumers. Customers need time to understand the market, compare alternatives and to learn about the non-price protections available to all small retail customers. The offer of **a** safety net tariff **may** also encourage customers to test the retail market by providing certainty that they can return to the regulated tariff at **any time.** The Government is **also** concerned to mitigate sudden price rises for small retail customers **as** transitional tariffs move closer to fully cost reflective levels.

The timing of this review is crucial in terms of the development of a competitive retail market for **NSW** small retail consumers. The conclusion of the next IPART determination period in June 2007 will mark more than six years since the commencement of full retail competition in New **South** Wales. To date, the number of small retail custoiners switching to negotiated supply contracts **has** been relatively modest. This probably reflects, in **part,** the fact that retail competition remains **an** unfamiliar concept for most electricity consumers after a lifetime of monopoly **supply.** The market should continue to grow **as** residential and small business customers become more aware of their retail options,

PART is ultimately responsible for the success or otherwise of retail competition in New South Wales. The key determinant of switching behaviour for **a** homogeneous product like electricity will always be the price of **any** regulated alternative. **If** safety net tariffs are below the level **at** which retailers can provide competitive **market offers,** consumers will have no incentive to negotiate **a** commercial contract. Ensuring there is **some** scope **for** price discounts **will** encourage the entry of new retailers to compete with incumbent suppliers for **a** share of the three million residential and small business customers. This should have the further benefit of encouraging improvements and innovation in service delivery. Eventually, the presence **of a** vigorously competitive retail market may eliminate the need for tariff regulation.

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This review provides the opportunity for IPART to set the foundations for a competitive retail market in New South Wales. The three-year determination period provides adequate time for **PART** to move all under recovering tariffs to cost reflective levels. Prior to the **end** of the next determination, the Government should be able to consider the scope for limiting the coverage of price regulation in the NSW retail market (eg, retaining price protection for residential customers on lower incomes).

In **this** context, Macquarie **Generation** has two key concerns that it would like to raise in **response** to the **PART** issues paper:

1. the need to apply **an** appropriate methodology for calculating the electricity purchase cost allowance in regulated tariffs; and

2. the importance of designing a tariff model that enables regulated tariffs to move to cost reflective target levels over the determination period.

ALLOWANCE FOR ELECTRICITY PURCHASE COSTS

The terms of reference for the review require PART to determine an allowance for electricity purchase costs based on an assessment of the long-run marginal cost of electricity generation, given the characteristics of the demand of customers remaining on regulated tariffs.

Load profile

Small retail customers on regulated tariffs have a much **more** volatile demand profile **than those** larger customers **on** commercially negotiated tariffs. This is important because the more volatile the pattern of consumption in a system the more reserve generation capacity required to supply customers during peak demand periods. It follows that the more reserve **capacity** required, the greater the overall cost of supplying total demand.

The 'load factor' **is** a commonly used measure of **the** 'peakiness' of consumption by a customer or a group of customers. The load factor for a group of customers is defined as total volume of consumption in a period divided by the sum of maximum hourly demand times the number of hours in that period. In effect, the load factor measures average demand divided by peak demand over a particular period of time.

The lower the load factor the **more** volatile and peaky is the consumption profile. Macquarie Generation **has** calculated load factors for recent calendar **years using NEMMCO** data and regulated load information published by **NSW** Treasury. Separate load factors are shown for customers on regulated tariffs **and** commercially negotiated tariffs.

	2001	2002	2003
Regulated customers	49%	48%	48%
Commercial customers	75%	73%	71%

Residential and small business customers have a significantly more volatile load profile **than** commercial and industrial customers. This is **not surprising** given the demand characteristics of the different groups. Residential customers tend to consume the most during the early evening periods. Peak demands occur during the summer and winter **peak** periods driven by cooling and heating **loads.** Peak demand from larger commercial customers tends to **be** more evenly spread through the working weekday.

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The following load duration curve shows the consumption profile **of** regulated customers. Macquarie Generation has **based** the **profile** on the regulated **load** volumes for 2001 **as** all **residential** and **small retail customers were supplied under** regulated **tariffs** during **this period.** Given that all small retail customers remain eligible for regulated **tariffs, it** seems reasonable to **model** possible load levels **using this group of** customers. Macquarie Generation **has applied** annual **growth** factors to forecast the 2006 **load.**

FORECAST NSW REGULATED LOAD 2006
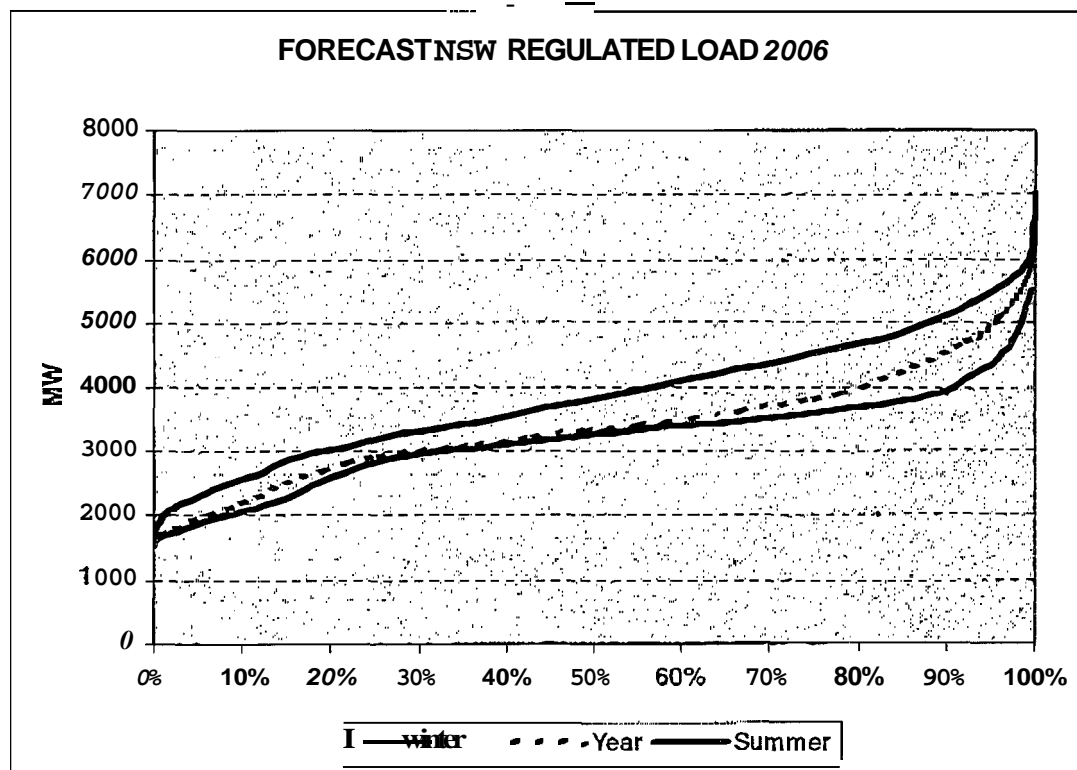
The load duration curve **shows** that some 2,250 MW **(check)** or more than **30%** of regulated demand occurs in less than 10% **of** half-hour periods. Winter demand tends to be even more peaky than summer demand **with approximately** 1,000MW **of** consumption occurring in less than 2% of half-hour periods.

The level of peak demand sets the overall capacity requirements for **the** NEM. In addition, NEMMCO determines minimum system reserve requirements using forecasts of peak demand. Residential **and** small business customers are using a disproportionate share of system capability during these peak periods. **New** investment in generation **assets to** supply intermediate **and** peak loads **will** come at **a** higher **unit** cost than base load **generation.** Customers **on** regulated tariffs should **pay** an electricity **allowance** that reflects the costs they **are** imposing on **the** system.

Long run marginal *cost* of generation
Long run marginal *cost* can be defined as the 'incremental cost *of* all adjustments in the system **expansion plan and** system operations attributable to an incremental increase in demand which is sustained into the future' **(Munasinghe and Warford 1982)[1].**

[1] Munasinghe, M and Warford, J. (1982), *Electricity Procing: Theory and Case Studies,* World Bank, John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London.

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The short run **marginal cost** represents the cost of producing an additional unit of electricity when the capacity is fixed. It includes the cost of fuel **and** operating *costs* related to the production of an **additional unit of energy. Long run marginal** cost includes the development **cost** of **new** capacity, **and is** therefore more complex to compute. As noted **by Stefanou (1989):**

> All economic activity **occurs** in the short run. The long run refers to the **firm** decision making planning **ahead to** select a future short-run production situation. **The long run** consists of the range of **possible** short-run **situations** available **to** the firm. **As** such, **the** firm operates in the short **run by plans** for the **long run.** The conditions occurring during **the** planning horizon are ignored with the focus on **the** conditions prevailing once long-run equilibrium **is** achieved?

The purpose of using the long run marginal **cost** of electricity in regulated tariffs is to promote economic efficiency. **As** Munasinghe **and** Warford **argue:**

> **A** tariff based on **LRMC** is consistent with the first objective **of** efficiently allocating resources. The traditional accounting approach **is** concerned with recovering historical, **or sunk, costs.** In calculating LRMC the important consideration is **the** amount of future resources used **or** saved **by** consumer decisions. Since electricity prices **are** the **amounts** paid for increments **of** consumption, they should **generally** reflect the incremental cost incurred. Supply costs increase if existing consumers increase their demand, or if new consumers are connected to **the system.** Therefore, prices that act **as a** signal to consumers should be related to the economic value of future resources required to meet consumption changes. The accounting approach **that** uses historical **assets and** embedded **costs** implies that future economic resources will be **as** cheap **or as** expensive as in the past 'This could lead to overinvestment and waste, or underinvestment **and** the additional **costs** of unnecessary scarcity.'

When calculating the long run **marginal** cost, **the** costs associated with the existing power **system** should be ignored. **As Kahn notes:**

> Marginal costs **look to the** future, not to the past **it is** only **future** costs **for** which additional production can be causally responsible; **it** is **only future costs that can** be saved **if** that production is not undertaken. If capital **costs are** to be included **in** price, the capital costs in question **are** those that will have **to be** covered over time in the future if service **is to continue** to be rendered. These would be **the depreciation and return** (including taxes) of the future investments that will have to **be** made. These incremental capital **costs** per *unit* of **output** will be the **same** as average capital *costs* **of** existing plant only in **a** completely static world, **and** under conditions of long-run constant cost. **As** for the former and by **far** the important qualification, in **a** dynamic **economy,** with changing technology as well **as** changing factor prices, there is every **reason** to believe **that** future capital costs per **unit of output will not be** the same as the capital costs historically incurred installing present capacity!

The calculation of the capacity **cost** component of long **run** marginal cost is dependent on **assumptions** over **the** cost of new capacity, its longevity, depreciation and on the **discount rate to** be applied over **the** life horizon of the investment. **The** depreciation rate represents **the** loss of value of the installed capacity **over** the **years and the** discount rate is the opportunity **cost** of capital that is used for the investment in new capacity.

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[2] **Stefanou, S. E. (1989),** 'Returns to Scale in **the** Long Run: The **Dynamic Theory** of *Cost',* Southern *Economic* Journal, vol. 55, no. 3, pp. 570-579, **at** p. 570.
[3] Munasinghe, M and Warford, J. **(1982).** Electricity *Procing: Theory and Case Studies,* World **Bank,** John Hopkins University **Press,** Baltimore and London, p. 11.
[4] **Kahn, A. (1988)** *The Economics* of *Regulation: Principles* and *Institutions.* Massachusetts Institute of Technology, vol. 1, p. *98.*

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Porat, Irith and Turvey (1997)[5] outline a number of steps in the calculation of long run marginal generation costs:

1. Forecasting likely increases in system load and the timing of the forecast **demand** increases. The load changes **can** be modelled for different groups of **demand** periods – **peak,** off-peak **and** shoulder for winter, summer, spring/autumn;

2. Calculating optimal system expansion plans using dynamic programming to minimise **the** total system costs of meeting the anticipated increase in demand for each group of demand periods. Requires detailed information on fixed and variable costs **of** alternative plant technologies including information on reliability **and** operating characteristics. Fixed costs include capital costs for each plant type;

3. Starting with a base case, a load increment is **added** to each **of** the groups of **hours. The** .difference in the discounted **amount** of electricity provided is **then** divided into the difference between the discounted cost of the **base** plan and **the** discounted cost of the optimal plan for the altered load forecast to **yield** a marginal cost for that **group** of hours. **An** analysis of the change in production patterns under the base case **and** incremental scenarios will provide a **breakdown** of the **marginal cost into** capacity costs **and** variable costs for the increment in load.

In summary, the key messages **in** estimating the long **run marginal** cost of electricity **are:**

*   all relevant costs **are** future costs, not those of the present **system;**

*   the costs of incremental capacity required to meet incremental demand must be included;

*   the difference between **the** net present value of costs associated with serving demand under a 'base case' (in **this** case, **NEM** demand minus the regulated customer load) and an 'incremental load case' (in this case, NEM **demand** plus the regulated load), divided by the net present value of regulated demand, needs to be calculated

Macquarie Generation estimates of generation costs

The above modelling approach requires a substantial quantity of data **and** the ability to calculate optimal system expansion plans, usually involving **a** linear programming model. Macquarie Generation has undertaken **a** simplified approach to the calculation of generation costs to supply **the NSW** regulated load. The **one-year** static modelling exercise **assumes:**

*   Peak demand of 7,000 MW and average demand of 3,420 MW **(see** load duration curve **above);**

*   Weighted average cost of capital of 10.5%;

*   **Maximum** capacity factor for coal **fired** generation of *85%;*

*   300 MW of reserve capacity allocated to the regulated load;

*   Three alternative technologies – coal-fired, open cycle **gas** and closed cycle **gas;**

*   **costs**

	Fixed costs	Variable **costs**
Coal fired generation	$1,455/kW	$14.50/MWh
Open cycle gas turbine	$688/kW	$74/MWh
Closed cycle gas turbine	$816/kW	$30/MWh

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[5] **Porat, Y, Irith,. R & Turvey, R (1997)** Long-run marginal electricity generation costs in Israel, *Energy Policy,* Vol.25, No.4, pp.401-411.

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Using the above assumptions, the least cost mix of plant technologies to supply the regulated load would be 3,800MW of coal-fired base load plant, 1,400MW of closed cycle gas turbine plant for intermediate generation and 2,100MW of open cycle gas turbine plant for peak requirements including 300MW for reserve capacity.

Based on this mix of plant technologies and estimated output levels, Macquarie Generation has calculated a generation cost of **$43.27 MWh with an additional** cost **for** reserve capacity of $0.72 MWh. These estimates do not include the cost of supplying green energy to customers on regulated tariffs (see below). These costs are consistent with existing **PART** allowances for regulated electricity and with other empirical studies on the long run marginal cost of electricity generation in Australia.

While the Macquarie Generation modelling provides an indication of generation costs, more detailed analysis is required to estimate accurate long-run marginal cost numbers consistent with the methodology outlined above. Macquarie Generation understands that **PART** has engaged Intelligent Energy Systems to undertake this detailed work using the most recently available data.

Macquarie Generation notes that **PART** does not intend to publish the results of the IES study until after the due date for submissions. Given the importance of these estimates for the development of retail competition and the operation of the NEM more broadly, it is requested that an opportunity to comment on these estimates is provided before **PART** releases its Draft Report.

Green costs in regulated tariffs

The terms of reference require **PART** to consider an allowance for retailer compliance with any Commonwealth mandatory renewable energy target (MRET) requirements and the licence requirements relating to the **NSW** Greenhouse Gas Benchmark Scheme.

Macquarie Generation is a liable party under both the **NSW** greenhouse benchmarks scheme and the MRET scheme, with a substantial combined liability. Our estimates of REC and NGAC prices are based on our practical experiences in trying to source these certificates for future years. The underlying assumptions used to calculate likely green energy costs are detailed at attachment 1.

IPART's mid term review of regulated retail prices for electricity to *2004* (June 2002) referred to Government modelling of the combined compliance costs of the State and Commonwealth green requirements averaging $2.20 over a ten-year period. **PART** separately identified an average annual MRET compliance cost of **$0.25** over the period to June 2004. **PART** mid term review stated that the LRMC allowance included provision for green energy **costs** in the range of *$0.50* to $2.20 MWh.

Macquarie Generation anticipates a substantial increase in green energy costs over the next few years - from **$1.45** in 2004 to **$4.18** in *2007.* This increase is driven by the progressive tightening of the MRET and NGAC obligations and the increasing cost of the remaining abatement and renewable energy measures.

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$/MWh	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Renewable Energy Certificates	$0-37	$0.53	$0.70	$0.91	$1.10
NSW Greenhouse Benchmark Scheme	$0.23	$0.92	$1.57	$2.23	$3.07
Total	$0.60	$1.45	$2.27	$3.14	$4.18

The estimates of renewable energy certificate prices used in the assumptions are higher than other publicly available estimates, such as the studies commissioned by the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) by IES and MMA in relation to REC prices, and the NSW Government estimates of NGAC prices contained in the Sensitivity Modelling Report, prepared by Frontier Economics! It should be noted that all of these studies abstract from 'real world' issues such as complications and delays in becoming accredited, market power, and search costs, all of which have the potential to cause divergences between modelled prices and actual certificate prices.

The actual compliance costs with MRET and benchmarks obligations over the next three years are highly uncertain at chis time. The MRET scheme is still relatively new, and the MRET Review Panel recently recommended significant change to the MRET scheme. The Federal Government has yet to respond to those recommendations. In addition, the NSW greenhouse benchmarks scheme is in its infancy, with relatively few potential suppliers being accredited at this stage, The speed with which accreditation and certificate creation occurs could significantly affect the price of NGACs in the next three years. Large swings in the price of certificates are entirely possible in a new market, as participants take time to understand the scheme, and gain a better feel for whether they can become a certificate supplier, and where their competition lies.

IPART must ensure that the review provides sufficient allowance for the anticipated real increases in regulatory costs associated with green programs over the course of the next determination period. Standard retailers must be able to earn a retail margin that covers the cost of renewable energy and greenhouse abatement obligations.
Given the uncertainty associated with future green compliance costs, the most appropriate way forward may be for the Tribunal to review actual green energy costs as part of its annual approval of changes to regulated tariffs.

Hedging costs

The terms of reference state that in order to promote competition, regulated retail tariffs which are below the cost of supply should be moved towards full cost reflectivity, as far as practicable.

Hedging costs are a small but significant component of the costs of supplying domestic and small business customers under a commercial contract. Macquarie Generation is of the view that IPART should take account the costs of hedging electricity purchases in the setting of regulated retail tariffs to ensure competitive neutrality with commercial providers. Retailers

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[6] IES 2002, *Modelling the Price of Renewable Energy Certificates, A Report* to the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator, December. MMA 2002, *Modelling the Price of Renewable Energy Certificates Under the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target*, Report to the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator, 29 October, NSW Government 2002. Sensitivity Modelling: Greenhouse related licence conditions for electricity retailers, March.

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offering commercial contracts will find it difficult to compete with regulated tariffs if no account is given to the hedging costs incurred by retailers in managing electricity purchases.

Hedging costs refer to the various volume and forecasting risks, counter-party credit risks and transaction costs associated with purchasing electricity on behalf of retail customers supplied under commercial contracts. Retailers supply customers on commercial contracts must employ energy traders to manage these risks through financial hedge contracts. Such contracts include various risk premiums to manage uncertain outcomes.

As noted earlier, residential and small business customers have particularly volatile **demand** profiles. This combined with the coincidence of high residential demand with high **NEM** spot prices adds to cost of managing purchases for small retail customers under commercially negotiated contracts.

In the issues paper for the review, the Tribunal notes that "in other jurisdiction, an allowance for hedging is often included in the retail margin. In relation to electricity, the Tribunal has previously decided not to include hedging costs in the retail margin for **NSW** electricity retailers, as the Electricity Tariff Equalisation Fund provides a form of automatic hedging for retailers supplying customers on regulated tariffs".

For standard retailers supplying customers on regulated tariffs the Electricity Tariff Equalisation Fund does provide a low risk mechanism for managing purchase costs. The Fund is effectively guaranteed by the three **NSW** generators through the obligation to "top up" the Fund when there are insufficient reserves to offset retailer purchase costs. The Fund uses differences in the regulated energy cost and NEM spot price multiplied by regulated load volumes to calculate retailer payments to and from ETEF reserves. The ETEF mechanism ensures that standard retailers earn no more or less than the retail margin determined by IPART. Therefore, standard retailers would gain no artificial advantage in having a higher energy charge incorporated into regulated tariffs. They would earn no extra profits that could be used to fund lower prices to contestable customers, at the expense of other retailers.

A hedging cost allowance should be built into the ETEF regulated energy cost. This would ensure that retailers would continue to earn a margin that reflects actual risks and costs. A higher regulated energy cost would reduce the financial risks faced by generators in having to underwrite the operation of the ETEF arrangement.

Intelligent Energy Systems has previously undertaken work for the Victorian Government on standing tariffs for small retail customers using prevailing contract price information to determine an effective purchase cost component[7]. The model used total customer load, a load factor and a peak/total ratio to determine the load shape for small retail customers. **While** this was appropriate for Victoria, the NSW regulated load has significant differences, in particular energy consumption is highly sensitivity to weather through the heating and cooling load. This means that the bulk of regulated peak load is supplied in **the** winter and summer peak periods. These periods are **also** those that attract the highest contract prices. Applying the IES model in NSW would systematically under value the market price because it smooths **peak** energy **across** the **year.**

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[7] Intelligent Energy Systems, 2001, Spreadsheet model prepared for the then Victorian Regulator General's review of retail prices tariffs for domestic and small business customers and deemed customers.

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To avoid this bias, Macquarie Generation has developed a **more** detailed approach to estimate likely market purchase costs. The Macquarie Generation **analysis** assumes that **a** retailer is hedging 10% of the ETEF **load** profile (2,750 GWh) by **buying** a portfolio **of** flat and peak swap **contracts,** cap contracts **and** spot market purchases. **The following** table **and** diagram show the contract types, volumes and **prices.**

FY05/06 Flat Swap - 350 MW @ $36.00/MWHr
FY05/06 Peak Swap - 30 MW @ $50.00/MWHr
Q1 Peak Swap - 10 MW @ $70.00/MWHr
Q2 & Q3 Flat Swap - 110 MW @ $36.00/MWHr
FY 05/06 Flat $100 Cap - 220 MW @ $7.50/MWHr
FY 05/06 Pool Payments capped at $100 @ Ave $32.00/MWHr
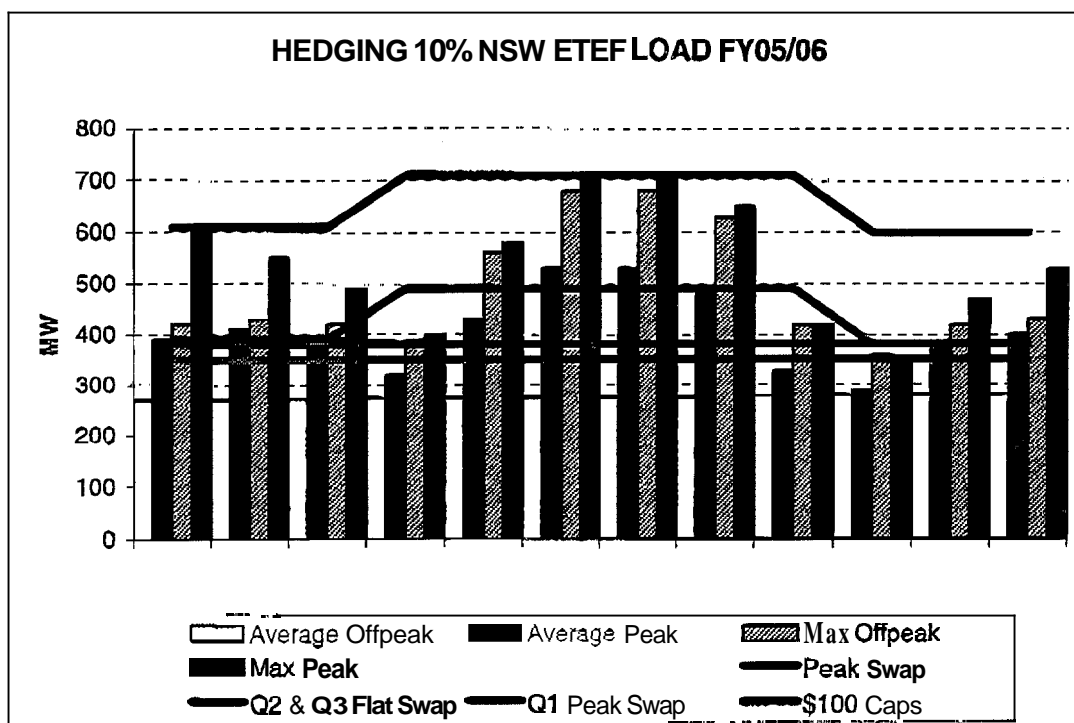
The **average** hedge cost using the above combination of contracts is $49.63 **MWh.** The **hedge market** price **is approximately** $5 **MWh** above the ETEF regulated energy cost. Retailers offering commercial contracts would have **to** undercut the regulated **tariff by** negotiating a lower hedge price with a generator **or** trader, or by signing up **a** customer with a flatter, lower **cost** load profile.

Jurisdictional regulators in Victoria, **South** Australia **and** the Australian Capital Territory have incorporated hedging costs into the calculation of standard tariff offers for small **retail** customers. **This** probably explains why Victoria has experienced **higher** rates of customer switching since **the** Commencement of full retail competition in January 2002. While switching is not desirable simply for its own *sake,* it at least provides evidence that new entrants can profitably participate in the **market,** increasing the odds that at some point in the future, **regulated** tariffs **may** not be **required at all** (except perhaps for retailer of last resort situations).

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FORM OF TARIFF REGULATION

The design of the next determination of regulated tariffs **must** ensure that all reasonable costs identified in the review are passed through **to** customers on **regulated** tariffs. The electricity allowance in regulated tariffs must not be **the** cost component that is squeezed to **accommodate** real increases in other legitimate retail costs. To do so would threaten the progress made to date with retail competition **and** deter **any** new investment in retail **systems** and marketing by new entrant retailers. It would also blunt the signals for new investment in **generation** capacity to supply regulated load over the **next** few years.

Recent **history** provides a good **guide** to the design failings of the current framework for adjusting regulated tariffs. **The** regulated energy cost that applies **as** the strike price for the calculation of ETEF payments increased by only 1 per cent in nominal terms in the period 2002-03 to 2003-04. This amounts to a **2** per cent **real** reduction in the electricity purchase **cost** in regulated **tariffs** despite an increase in energy allowance in target tariffs of 3% nominal. **The** reduction **was** driven by a **real** increase in distribution network charges over **2003-04** combined with **a global CPI** *price* **cap on the regulated tariffs offered** by standard retailers.

The recent **PART Draft** Report, *NSW Electricity Distribution Pricing 2004-05 to 2008-09*, foreshadowed substantial real **increases** in network charges for all retail customers over the **next** five years. **Network** charges account for approximately **40%** of **the** total regulated tariff charged to small retail customers. **NSW** regulated **tariffs** will need to increase on average by approximately 2.5% in **real** terms in 2004-05 to absorb the impact of higher **network** charges.

Proposed network charges	Year 1 increase	5-year increase
Energy Australia	6.5%	12.6%
Integral Energy	1.1%	5.6%
Country Energy	6.5%	17.6%
Australian Inland	6.5%	17.6%

The four **NSW** standard retail suppliers have all sought significant real increases in their retail cost allowances **as** part of the next retail determination. The **PART** issues paper for *the* review includes a *summary* of retail operating costs **and** retail **margins** provided to electricity **retailers** offering **standard** supply products in other Australian jurisdictions (appendix 2, p.22). **The** current **NSW** regulated retail **margin** of **$40-$60 for** operating **costs** and 1.5 to 2.5% for a **retail margin are the lowest** of all **NEM jurisdictions and** less than the allowance provided for **gas** suppliers.

The setting **of the** regulated electricity allowance is **the** key factor in determining the scope for retail competition. The vast majority of non-energy costs are separately regulated **and** charged to small retail customers **at a** common rate irrespective of whether the customer receives supply under **a** regulated or commercial contract. **The** retail **margin** is the only other market component that retailers could adjust to attract customers. However, as noted above, regulated **retail margins are** already at low levels compared with retail margin allowances in other jurisdictions. Retailers offering commercial **tariffs** would **also** require an additional return to cover the costs **and risks** of hedging energy purchases.

At present, the scope far price discounts **to** attract regulated customers **to** a commercial tariff is limited **or** non-existent. **The** submissions of the four standard retailers to **the** IPART

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review indicate chat average regulated tariffs are set at levels below target tariff levels. Energy Australia states that its regulated retail tariffs are on average 1.7% or $18 million below target levels. Integral Energy provides a similar estimate of $20 million.

Any upward movement in forward hedge prices for electricity would further dampen the scope for retailers to negotiate price savings with small retail customers. Substantial increases in market prices could **even** trigger a return by small retail customers on negotiated contracts **back to** the standard form supply contract when existing contracts expire.

IPART must ensure there is a degree of neutrality between the commercial and regulated alternatives to provide some encouragement for retailers *to* develop and market commercial offers for small retail customers. Macquarie Generation proposes **the** following changes to regulated tariffs to ensure they are at target levels at **the** conclusion of the next determination **period:**

- an up-front and automatic pass through of **any** increase in monopoly network charges;
- phased increase over three years of **any** real increase in the retail cost of serve allowance or retail margins;
- o phased introduction of a hedging cost allowance into the ETEF energy cost allowance over **the** determination period;
- annual review and pass through of green energy costs based on changes in market prices for RECs and NGACs.

SUMMARY

The Tribunal must not take the soft option of deferring difficult decisions on **cost** pass through by lowering the electricity allowance in regulated tariffs. Such a decision would stall any development of the retail market in **NSW,** a market **that has** failed **to** attract significant entry from new retail suppliers. More importantly, small retail customers should face **tariffs** that reflect the **costs** they impose on the generation sector. Price provides the most affective incentive for demand management. Equity concerns should be dealt with using direct and transparent mechanisms, not **through** the blunting of signals for new investment in generation facilities.

Macquarie Generation looks forward to the opportunity **to** comment on the cost modelling work by Intelligent Energy Systems and the Tribunal's draft report.

Yours faithfully

RUSSELL SKELTON
MANAGER MARKETING & TRADING

Attachment 1: New South Wales Benchmark Scheme — assumptions and data

		2004	2005	2006	2007
Inputs					
Required RECs	GWh	2600	3400	4500	5600
Australia total consumption	GWh	199,157	203,935	208.713	213,491
REC percentage		1.25%	1.67%	2.16%	2.62%
NSW total consumption	GWh	65,671	67,499	69,137	70,770
NSW per capita target	tonnes C02 per capita	8.31	7.96	7.62	7.27
NSW population	million	6.7521	6.7961	6.8510	6.9059
Pool coefficient	tonnes/MWh	0.906	0.906	0.906	0.906
Distribution loss factor		1.053	1.053	1.053	1.053
NEMMCO purchases	GWh	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Calculations					
Total electricity sold	GWh	950	950	950	950
Electricity Sector benchmark	kTonnes C02	56,110	54,097	52,205	50,206
Greenhouse gas benchmark	kTonnes CO2	811	761	717	674
Deemed generator purchases	GWh	0	0	0	0
Total electricity purchased	GWh	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
RECs counted	GWh	13	17	22	26
Attributable emissions	kTonnes CO2	895	891	886	882
Attributable less benchmark	kTonnes CO2	83	130	169	209
Greenhouse shortfall	kTonnes CO2	83	130	169	209
Greenhouse **shortfall**	tonnes/MWh	0.088	0,137	0.178	0,220
Cost calculations					
REC rate assumed	$/M h	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00
NGAC rate assumed	$/tonne	$10.50	$11.50	$12.50	$14.00