

## PRICE INCREASES FOR REGULATED GAS PRICES FOR COUNTRY ENERGY

**Embargoed until 5pm Monday 26 May 2008**

Regulated retail gas prices will increase on 1 June 2008 for customers of Country Energy. The average prices will increase by \$1.97/GJ and apply to customers on regulated tariffs only.

These regulated price increases arose from special circumstances relating to securing sufficient supply of gas for the Riverina, Murray and Snowy regions for the winter of 2008.

The increase of \$1.97 per GJ translates into a 12.2 per cent increase in the annual bill for a typical retail customer of Country Energy. These increases replace the CPI increase that would have otherwise occurred on 1 July 2008.

In March 2008 Country Energy submitted a proposal for average price increases to regulated tariffs of \$1.97 per GJ or by 12.2 per cent to apply from 1 June 2008.

IPART's CEO and Full time Tribunal member Mr James Cox states "IPART has considered this application and decided that the average price of gas to the tariff market may increase by \$1.97/GJ to reflect the additional costs associated with the supply of gas over the winter period. IPART does not expect these circumstances to be repeated in 2009".

The report is available on IPART's website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

For further information, contact: James Cox, Chief Executive Officer and Full Time Member  
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### Background

All gas customers in NSW have the choice of entering into a contract with a licensed supplier. However, small customers are eligible for a regulated tariff. In June 2007 IPART entered into agreements with Country Energy for CPI price increases on 1 July each year until 2010. In special circumstances a supplier may apply to IPART to vary prices outside of this limit.

Country Energy offers regulated gas retail tariffs to approximately 22,000 small retail customers. Gas is supplied to a number of areas, being Wagga Wagga, Uranquinty, Henty, Walla Walla, Temora, Holbrook, Culcairn, Cooma, Bombala, Adelong, Gundagai and Tumut.