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Dr Tom Parry
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Q290
QVB PO 1230

17 March 2003

Dear Tom

As you are aware, AGL want to delay the date for submitting information on their distribution access arrangement from 1 July 2003 until 1 January 2004. Jane McAloon and David Pringle from AGL came to see Jim and I last week to outline this proposal and seek our approval for this delay.

At this meeting, PIAC undertook to write to you and send a copy of this letter to AGL outlining our position on the delay. We are providing cautious support for the six months delay, particularly as there will be no price increases for residential consumers during the six months. We are concerned however that neither the policy nor the legislative changes will be apparent at the end of the six months as a result of a review of the National Third party Access Code for Natural Gas Pipeline Systems (the Code).

If this is the case, PIAC is adamant that a further six months delay to 1 July 2004 to submit information on their access arrangement not be allowed.

If you have any queries about our views on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on 9299-7833.

Yours sincerely
Public Interest Advocacy Centre

Trish Benson

Trish Benson
Senior Policy Officer

cc Jane McAloon, Group Manager External Affairs, AGL
David Pringle, Manager Regulatory Affairs Gas Networks, Agility