Draft Guiding Principles

The GIS is required to satisfy the objectives and purpose set out in the GIS Act. The guiding principles set out here serve to link the detailed design of the GIS with the objectives and purpose of the GIS Act.

The following draft principles for the design of the GIS are put forward for discussion with the GAB. While trade-offs will invariably be required between these principles, the process of assessing these trade-offs is useful in informing the design.

The GIS comprises the bulletin board, the gas statement of opportunity and the emergency management facility.

#	Principle	Discussion
1	**GIS Information – Useful** GIS Information should provide information useful in promoting the long term interests of consumers of natural gas in relation to: a) the security, reliability and availability of the supply of natural gas in Western Australia; b) the efficient operation and use of natural gas services in Western Australia; c) the efficient investment in natural gas services in Western Australia; and d) the facilitation of competition in the use of natural gas services in Western Australia.	This first principle has several purposes. It introduces the term GIS Information, it indicates that any information included in that set should be "useful" in achieving the goals, and provides four goals, these being taken verbatim from the GIS Act.
2	**Maximise Transparency of Information** The availability and currency of GIS Information should be maximised, unless there is clear justification not to do so. The benefit of providing information must be balanced with the need to provide appropriate protection of confidential and commercially sensitive information	Accepting that data should be useful (from 1) this goal seeks to maximise transparency. Justification is required for not releasing information.

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3	**Maximise Symmetry and Equity of Information Provision** The GIS Information provision and publication requirements should apply in a symmetric fashion to gas supply, transportation, storage and usage, though should recognise differences in function of facilities.	The aim of this principle is to keep the quality and reporting requirements of information at a similar level across the supply chain while recognising that, for example, a storage facility has different types of data than would apply for a pipeline facility or gas user. The GIS Act places greater emphasis on end user information than is the case for the National Bulletin Board, hence the inclusion of "usage" in this objective. This should not be read as to suggest that end users need to report to the bulletin board (see principle 4), rather that some sensible mechanism needs to be developed for determining end usage forecasts.
4	**Benefit vs Effort in GIS Information Provision and Publication** The effort required to source GIS Information should not be out of proportion with the benefit to be gained from the availability of that information. Where possible, the maximum use should be made of existing and public data sources.	Even where information is "useful" (principle 1) consideration needs to be given to the benefit of gas industry stakeholders having the information – or providing lower accuracy information – relative to the effort required to compile that information. Participants and the GIS operator should not have to 're-invent the wheel' if information is already available in some other form. E.g. the GSOO should make maximum use of Bulletin Board data.
5	**Avoid Unnecessary Inconsistency with Established Information Interfaces** In recognition of the number of participants that operate in different jurisdictions of Australia, the form and conventions used for GIS information should be aligned to the extent practicable with those of similar systems operating in other Australian markets.	A number of participants in WA are already participating in the national bulletin board and have systems which are aligned with the national bulletin board. While the nature of GIS data may differ from the national bulletin board, it would be desirable to maintain sufficient consistency such that existing participant systems used to generate reports for the national bulletin board could also be used to generate (potentially different) reports for the GIS.

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6	**System Representation** The resolution of the GBB system representation should be sufficient to inform industry of gas flows, storage, and facility capabilities from processing plant to end users.	This design work does not include developing the specific representation of the bulletin board network, though it does include establishing some logic for how this should be done. This principle aims to provide some high level logic without assuming a solution.
7	**Emergency Situations** The GIS should complement and enhance industry and government emergency management processes and should present emergency information data in a clear and easily interpreted manner.	This principle requires the bulletin board approach to reporting on emergency situations should be aligned with other related processes and should add value. Further, to the extent that an emergency happens then the bulletin board needs to provide clear and timely information. If participants have to search the bulletin board to find out there is an emergency or the emergency information reported is unintelligible then the bulletin board would have failed in satisfying this goal. Similarly, relying on data provision only once an emergency is underway may delay decision making and the data provided may be less reliable given attention will be focused on the emergency.
8	**Cost Recovery** The cost of operating the GIS should be recovered in an administratively simple and cost-effective manner.	How the costs of the GIS are to be recovered is to be determined as part of this work. The complexity of the cost recovery method should not be out of proportion with the level of costs being recovered (which should be a relatively small component of the cost of delivered gas).