



Notice

01 July 2024

Reference service proposal for the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline

Decision

The Economic Regulation Authority has published a [decision](#) and its own [reference service proposal](#) approving the retention of the current three reference services for full haul, part haul and back haul transportation set out in DBNGP (WA) Transmission Pty Ltd's (DBP's) reference service proposal for the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline (DBNGP).

As the ERA considered that DBP had not specified all of the pipeline services it could reasonably provide, it did not approve DBP's proposal and published its own reference service proposal. The ERA's proposal includes the retention of the data services and storage service as pipeline services. DBP has provided these two services in its current and previous access arrangement periods and has also stated that it is able to offer these services if there is demand for the services in the future. The ERA has not classified these services as reference services.

In making its decision, the ERA had regard to the reference service factors as set out in the National Gas Rules and the outcome of consultations held by the ERA and DBP. As an approved reference service, the Full Haul, Part Haul and Back Haul services will form part of DBP's access arrangement proposal for the next access arrangement period, which is expected to commence on 1 January 2026.

DBP must submit its access arrangement proposal to the ERA by 1 January 2025. The proposal will set out the terms, conditions and prices for the firm transportation service, along with proposed revisions to other access arrangement provisions.

Background

DBNGP is one of the largest capacity natural gas transmission pipelines in Australia, spanning 1,600 kilometres starting near the township of Dampier, running parallel to the coast of Western Australia, and finishing near Bunbury, south of Perth. It connects the gas fields located in the state's northwest directly to mining, industrial and commercial customers.

The National Gas Rules require that a reference service proposal be submitted to the ERA for approval prior to the submission of an access arrangement proposal.

The reference service proposal is focused on identifying the services that can be offered by means of the pipeline and determining which of these services should be specified as a reference service under the access arrangement.

A "reference service" is a pipeline service that has a reference tariff and other terms and conditions approved by the regulator under the access arrangement framework, with the reference tariff being

the price that the pipeline operator can charge its customers. The reference service and reference tariff may serve as benchmark for access negotiation and arbitration in the event of a dispute.

On 8 December 2023, DBP submitted a reference service proposal to the ERA. The ERA published DBP's proposal on 9 February 2024 and invited submissions from interested parties over a 20-business day consultation period. The ERA received two submissions, one from the operator, DBP, and one from a shipper, South32.

Further information

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