

**From:** Bob Emery [mailto:bob@albanyport.com.au]  
**Sent:** 30 July 2001 6:32 PM  
**To:** enquiry@offgar.wa.gov.au  
**Subject:** Epic Energy regulatory decision.

Assuming the reduction in pricing arrangements does in fact preclude further expansion of the gas pipeline, the Albany Port Authority deeply regrets the Offgar draft decision reducing the transportation charges for the DBNGP. It would appear to have been taken with a singular lack of consideration of the consequences that will have a dramatic effect on the aspirations and requirements of REGIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Without competitive energy infrastructure in place it will prove impossible to carry out the professed wishes of Government to develop value added industry in the regions. Quite clearly the decision taken by Offgar would only benefit those with access to the current infrastructure and would not take into account any future industrial development outside the main Metropolitan vote catching areas.

The Port Authority and the Great Southern Region have long term REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT Plans for the development of Port and Transport Infrastructure in preparation for the numerous industries that could be encouraged by Government if it had the will to do so. This decision certainly indicates that there must be a more coordinated and wider inter-departmental approach to decisions that effect Regional Development. The encouragement of investment in the regions is something the Government must achieve if it is to successfully diversify industry and reduce the reliance on basic agriculture. The current disastrous regional economic problems reflect the dangers of maintaining this "no change" attitude and highlights the necessity to develop value adding industries.

We trust that the draft decision is very carefully reconsidered and input from Industry and representatives from the Regional areas that will be effected by this decision is obtained before any final conclusion made.

Bob Emery

C.E.O.

Albany Port Authority.