



**Chris Hartcher MP**

Minister for Resources and Energy  
Special Minister of State and  
Minister for the Central Coast

IM13/33697  
MF13/6844

Mr David Crawford  
President  
National Competition Council  
GPO Box 250 Melbourne VIC 3001



Dear Mr Crawford

Thank you for the National Competition Council's (NCC) recommendation dated the 8 August 2013 concerning Envestra Limited's application for revocation of coverage of the Wagga Wagga Gas Distribution Network.

In considering your recommendation I noted the Council's comments in relation to the current Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) review into energy retail competition in NSW. Further, your report identifies that the removal of retail price regulation is the key factor influencing your recommendation.

It is important to note that the AEMC has not yet submitted its report on this matter to the NSW Government, and the NSW Government has not made a decision in relation to price deregulation for gas supplied from the Wagga network. Consequently, it is not reasonably practical for me to make a decision in relation to coverage of the network at this time.

I confirm I will make a decision as soon as is reasonably practicable after the NSW Government has considered the findings and the recommendations of the AEMC report.

I would be grateful if the NCC could advise interested parties of the status of this matter.

Thank you for the Council's advice on this matter.

Yours sincerely

**Chris Hartcher MP**

10.9.13