



10 JUL 2009

THE HON DR CRAIG EMERSON MP

**MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND
THE SERVICE ECONOMY
MINISTER FOR COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
MINISTER ASSISTING THE FINANCE MINISTER ON DEREGULATION**

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

Dear Mr Crawford

Thank you for your letter of 11 May 2009 to the then Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs advising of the National Competition Council's final recommendation regarding the application for certification of the New South Wales water industry infrastructure access regime as an 'effective access regime' under Part IIIA of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (TPA).

As you would be aware there has been a change to Treasury portfolio Ministerial responsibilities within the standard period for making a decision in this matter. To ensure appropriate consideration of your recommendation I am extending the standard period for making a decision by 60 days. In accordance with section 44ND of the TPA, I will use my best endeavours to make a decision on the Council's recommendation on or before 9 September 2009.

A copy of the notice of the extension is attached for your information and a public notice will be placed in *The Australian* newspaper as soon as possible.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig Emerson'.

Craig Emerson