

**National Competition Council**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**July 3, 2000**

**NCC RECOMMENDS REGULATION  
TO ENCOURAGE COMPETITION**

President of the National Competition Council (NCC), Mr Graeme Samuel today announced that the NCC had recommended to Senator Minchin, Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, that that the Duke Energy Eastern Gas Pipeline be 'covered' under the National Gas Code.

The National Gas Code was agreed to by all Australian Governments in 1997 to assist with the development of a national gas market. The Council's role is to determine whether a pipeline has a monopoly and if so whether government regulation is necessary to ensure equitable access by gas suppliers to that pipeline.

The Council recommends regulation only where it is considered necessary to facilitate competition.

As such the Council has recommend that access to the Duke pipeline should be regulated to ensure greater competition within the gas sales market particularly into the Sydney region.

The Council's recommendation has followed a transparent and rigorous process under the Gas Code, including lengthy public consultations, and the publishing of a draft recommendation in May, 2000.

The Council also advertised and received 25 submissions. Many of the submissions, in particular those from gas users and producers, were supportive of coverage.

Senator Minchin is required to make a final decision in 21 days.

The Duke pipeline is presently being built between Longford, in Victoria, and Sydney. It is expected to commence operation by September 2000.

**For further comment contact: Ms Tania Coltman, 03 9285 7497**