



8 February 2012

National Access Regime
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins Street East
Melbourne VIC 8003

Submitted by email: accessregime@pc.gov.au

NATIONAL ACCESS REGIME - ISSUES PAPER

Origin Energy Limited (Origin) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Productivity Commission's Issues Paper on its inquiry into the National Access Regime.

Origin is a major Australasian integrated energy company focused on gas exploration, production and export, power generation and energy retailing. Listed in the top 20 on the S&P Australian Stock Exchange, Origin has over 5,600 employees. Origin retails energy to 4.4 million electricity, natural gas and LPG customer accounts and has one of Australia's most flexible generation portfolios with over 5,000 MW of capacity, through either owned generation or contracted rights. We are a significant investor in low emissions and renewable energy technologies, including gas, geothermal, wind, hydro and solar and are the largest retailer of green energy products in Australia.

Origin is an interested stakeholder in this Review as an active participant in the electricity, gas and rail (freight) industries. Our understanding is that the access regimes for electricity, gas and NSW rail are covered by industry-specific regimes, which sit alongside the National Access Regime. From that perspective, our interest in the Review is to understand whether any of the Productivity Commission's recommendations for the National Access Regime may affect these three industry-specific regimes, and if so, how.

With respect to the electricity and gas access regimes, we note these regimes are embodied in the Australian Energy Market Legislation.¹ In 2004, Governments agreed as part of the Australian Energy Market Agreement to seek certification of these regimes as effective access regimes under the now *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*. However, we understand this has not yet occurred.

Consequently, Origin encourages the Productivity Commission to recommend that governments should renew their efforts to seek this certification. Certification would provide electricity and gas market participants with certainty around the standing of these regimes against the National Access Regime.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this submission further, please contact Hannah Heath (Manager, Wholesale Regulatory Policy) on (02) 9503 5500 or hannah.heath@originenergy.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Moody
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¹ This includes the National Electricity Law, National Electricity Rules, National Gas Law, National Gas Rules, National Energy Retail Law, National Energy Retail Rules and *National Gas Access (WA) Act 2009*.