

Ministerial Council on Energy

Energy Market Reform Working Group Bulletin No 123

1 July 2008 commencement of the National Gas Law

The Ministerial Council on Energy's Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) is pleased to announce the commencement of the [*National Gas \(South Australia\) Act 2008*](#) implementing the National Gas Law, which has been applied in all States and Territories other than Western Australia (due to follow by October 2008). The National Gas Law reforms third party access to natural gas pipelines and establishes a gas market Bulletin Board. It replaces the *Gas Pipelines Access (South Australia) Act 1997* and brings gas access regulation under the jurisdiction of the Australian Energy Market Commission as rule-maker and the Australian Energy Regulator as the economic regulator and enforcement body. The legislation has been formally proclaimed to commence on 1 July 2008.

Commencing on 1 July 2008 with the National Gas Law, the South Australian Minister has made the initial *National Gas Rules 2008* (the [*National Gas Rules*](#)) and the South Australian Governor has also made the associated Regulations.

The gas market Bulletin Board will improve information sharing and transparency in Australia's gas markets. The Bulletin Board is being operated by VENCORP and has now started operation. All should feel free to access the Bulletin Board facilities at www.gasbb.com.au.

The consumer advocacy arrangements passed in 2007 by the South Australian Parliament as amendments to the *Australian Energy Market Commission Establishment Act 2004* also commence on 1 July 2008.

SCO thanks stakeholders for their contributions to the consultation process and looks forward to the continuing development of gas regulation through the operation of the rule change process in the National Gas Law.

MCE Standing Committee of Officials
1 July 2008