

1 June 2018

Tim Kerr
Legal Counsel
Gas Industry Company
95 Customhouse Quay
Wellington 6143

Sent via email: tim.kerr@gasindustry.co.nz

Dear Tim

GTAC Independent Facilitator Terms of Reference– Submission

First Gas welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Independent Facilitator for upcoming GTAC workshops. We see the Independent Facilitator as playing a valuable role in helping to finalise the GTAC. The Independent Facilitator will help to ensure an open, collaborative process continues so that parties have confidence on how outstanding issues are being explored and resolved.

We consider that the TOR provide a comprehensive description of the role of the Independent Facilitator. We suggest two potential improvements to the TOR below.

1. Consensus may not be reached on all issues

Section 8 of the TOR is explicit that consensus decisions are recorded in item (b) and but is less clear on how items will be treated where there is a lack of consensus. While it is desirable for issues to be resolved by consensus, this may not be possible on all issues (for example where stakeholder interests are diametrically opposed). When consensus is not possible, we see the role of the Independent Facilitator as building a common understanding of the points at issue that will help to inform First Gas on the best approach for the GTAC. We consider that the TOR should be more explicit on this point.

2. The programme will be developed collaboratively but workshop agendas will not

We agree with the emphasis in the TOR on the Independent Facilitator managing workshops to the agenda. We are entering the next phase of the GTAC development with a clear understanding that the programme for the workshops will be developed in consultation with stakeholders. However, it is not practical or efficient for the agenda for each workshop to be developed collaboratively at a detailed level. We therefore think it necessary for the Independent Facilitator take on the detailed task with a check with stakeholders to ensure the detail meets expectations.

We are happy to discuss any of the above issues and look forward to engaging positively with stakeholders on the GTAC shortly.

Yours faithfully



Ben Gerritsen
General Manager Commercial and Regulatory