

9 March 2016

Mr Bryan Green MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Mr Green,

Right to Information Request 10 February 2016

I refer to your request pursuant to the Right to Information Act 2009 (RTI Act) received on 10 February 2016 by Hydro Tasmania.

I am authorised to make decisions on behalf of Hydro Tasmania in respect of applications for information under the RTI Act.

1. Your Request

Your request was for:

1. Any briefing notes, reports, or emails produced which considered the effect on industrial energy users of renegotiating or not renewing any contracts with Tasmanian Gas Pipeline related to the Tamar Valley Power Station.

2. Determination and Reasons for Determination of Request

I have undertaken a search of the information held by Hydro Tasmania and its subsidiaries to locate any records that may be relevant to the Request and have determined as follows:-

2.1 Information relevant to the Request

Hydro Tasmania does not have any information 'which considered the effect on industrial energy users of renegotiating or not renewing any contracts with Tasmanian Gas Pipeline related to the Tamar Valley Power Station.'

However, we always keep in mind the interests of our major electricity customers when we are negotiating arrangements which may affect them. Please note that other than Bell Bay Aluminium and Grange Resources Port Latta facility, Hydro Tasmania does not have gas transport responsibility for major industrials.

Tasmanian Gas Pipeline (TGP) has indicated that it will deal direct on gas transport agreements with all major industrials in the renewal of any contracts beyond 2017. The following is an extract from a letter sent to TGP from Hydro Tasmania on 8 August 2014.

'Hydro Tasmania also recognises that TGP has a strong future with continued growth across the non-TVPS customer base. Although specifically excluded from the current negotiations, Hydro Tasmania would consider discussing a new or extended non-TVPS GTA.'

The remainder of the letter is not relevant to your request.

3. Information Provided

Annexure A, last paragraph under heading Background, relates to Tasmanian Gas Pipeline's verbal indications during contract negotiations that it will deal direct on gas transport agreements with all major industrials in the renewal of any contracts beyond 2017.

4. Information withheld

I have made the decision to not release certain information:

- The names of officers and contact details have been redacted as that is not information relevant to the request and officer details are also protected by the Privacy Act. Hydro Tasmania has received verbal advice from the Ombudsman's Office that names and details of officers of Hydro Tasmania are not "information" under the RTI Act.
- Information which is not relevant to the request

The reasons for the determination are:

- that the release of the information would not contribute to the debate on the matter;
- the information would not inform the request about the reasons for a decision;
- that the disclosure may have a substantial adverse effect on the management by Hydro Tasmania of its staff;
- the disclosure would prejudice the ability of Hydro Tasmania to obtain similar contract enquiries in the future;
- the disclosure would not provide the contextual information to aid in the understanding of Hydro Tasmania's decisions;

5. Review of Rights

You are entitled under Section 43 of the RTI Act to apply for a review of the decision made under Parts 2 or 4 of the determination.

Any request for such a review should be made in writing within twenty (20) working days of receiving this letter and addressed to:

Mr S Davy
Chief Executive Officer
Hydro Tasmania
4 Elizabeth Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Should you have any questions on the information provided please contact the undersigned.
This request is now considered closed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan W. Evans', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Alan W. Evans
Right to Information Officer & Corporation Secretary
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GOVERNMENT BUSINESSES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
4 December 2014

INFORMATION PAPER 1_c_ii

SUBJECT: Tasmanian Gas Pipeline – transportation agreement post 2017

Key Points / summary of subject

- Hydro Tasmania through AETV has gas transportation contracts with the Tasmanian Gas Pipeline (TGP) for the transportation of gas to:
 - Tamar Valley Power Station (TVPS)
 - Wholesale gas customers (including Aurora Energy and TasGas Retail) at various delivery points across Tasmania (Non-TVPS).
- Hydro Tasmania is currently working with the owners of TGP to restructure the existing transportation contracts associated with TVPS. The current proposal would provide AETV with access to gas transportation for TVPS until 2021, with options to extend until 2024.
- Hydro Tasmania has no plans to extend the non TVPS transportation arrangements beyond the current expiry of Dec 2017.

Background

AETV is the largest customer for the Tasmanian Gas Pipeline, through the suite of transportation contracts it holds for both TVPS and non-TVPS delivery points.

[REDACTED]

*Information not relevant to the request

Hydro Tasmania is currently working with the owners of TGP to restructure the transportation contracts associated with TVPS to provide longer term revenue security.

[REDACTED]

*Information not relevant to the request

[REDACTED]

*Information not relevant to the request

[REDACTED]

Beyond 2017, wholesale customers in Tasmania will contract with another party directly or with TGP for their transportation requirements, as Hydro Tasmanian sees high risk in its current role as a reseller of transportation capacity.

Outcomes

Negotiations are currently in progress with the owners of TGP.

Prepared by:



Contact number

Date:

Names removed
under the Privacy
Act

