



MEDIA STATEMENT

21 May 2004

GAS REVIEW BOARD RESIGNATION

Mr Max Kimber has announced his decision to resign from the Western Australian Gas Review Board.

Accepting the resignation reluctantly, the Presiding Member of the Gas Review Board Mr Robert Edel said, "Mr Kimber is an acknowledged expert in the gas pipeline industry. Mr Kimber has taken the decision to resign to avoid any perception of bias arising and to ensure the deliberations of the Board are not unduly delayed or influenced by legal challenges."

Western Power Corporation has asserted that Mr Kimber's presence on the Board had the potential to give rise to a risk that Mr Kimber, who had previously expressed views and opinions on issues relating to the regulation of gas pipelines in a submission that he co-authored to the Productivity Commission in February 2004, had predetermined some of the issues likely to arise in the hearings of Appeals 1,2,3 and 4 of 2004. Mr Kimber denies the assertion but resigned to protect the integrity of the regulatory appeals process.

Mr Edel said, "The Gas Review Board is required to draw its members from a very select group of persons with relevant commercial and legal expertise in the gas pipeline industry. On behalf of the Board, I thank Mr Kimber for his service, and advise that the search for an appropriate replacement has already commenced. All of the appeals have been programmed through to hearing dates in October and November, and Mr Kimber's resignation will not alter that program or slow the determination of the appeals process at all."

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