

GasNet Limited

2013/14 Pricing Methodology Gas Distribution Network Services

Valid from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014

Pursuant to: Gas Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The pricing methodology and structure that has applied until now has remained virtually unchanged since it was first developed in the late 1990's when Wanganui Gas Limited, GasNet's predecessor, provided open access to its gas distribution for the first time. Whilst acknowledging that there have been changes made to the methodology and structure at various times over the years, they were minor in nature and not as a result of, nor intended to address, the significant changes that have occurred within the natural gas sector since then.

Since the 1990's the once consolidated gas distribution business has effectively separated network and measurement business activities, each now operating under quite separate commercial and regulatory regimes. In respect of the latter and following the Commerce Commissions Default Price-Quality Path Determination in February 2013, GasNet commenced a review of its existing pricing methodology and structure to ensure GasNet's pricing methodology satisfied the regulatory requirements, and to develop a new model and pricing structure that is 'fit for purpose' and meets the needs of GasNet, its customers (the energy retailers) and consumers.

On completion of the review a consultation paper was sent to the energy retailers along with a invitation to make submissions on GasNet's proposed changes to its pricing methodology and structure. Two submissions were received by the closing date and were subsequently reviewed prior to finalising this Pricing Methodology, the analysis for which is provided in Appendix 3.

In summary and as described in greater detail within this document, GasNet plans to introduce a new pricing structure with a reduction in Load Groups that are closer aligned to that of other gas distribution network operators in New Zealand. In order to move to the new Load Groups and minimise price shock to consumers, GasNet proposes to apply transitional pricing through the continued use of the existing Load Groups for the next two pricing years until complete alignment can be achieved by 1 October 2015.

In addition, from 1 October 2013 GasNet will cease the practice of charging for Transitional Disconnections (where the energy retailer or its agent temporarily physically disconnects the consumer's gas supply from the network). GasNet acknowledges there are a number of the energy retailers, particularly those who are active in the mass market, who would like to see an end to the charging where the ICP status is Active-Vacant, but at this stage is unable to do so for reasons outlined further within this document.

This document is intended to provide information relating to the existing and new pricing methodologies, the transitional period between the two, and the rationale behind the change.

GasNet welcomes feedback from interested persons on any aspect of this Pricing Methodology document.

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2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 About GasNet

GasNet Limited is 100% owned by Wanganui Gas Limited which is itself owned by Wanganui District Council Holdings Limited, a "Council Controlled Trading Organisation".



GasNet Limited ("GasNet") commenced trading on 1 July 2008 after purchasing the network and metering business from Wanganui Gas Limited. Previously GasNet had been operating as an independent trading division of Wanganui Gas Limited and was responsible for managing the network and metering assets for the company.

2.2 Supply Area Coverage

GasNet's natural gas distribution network comprises approximately 10,000 connections across 5 discrete distribution systems located within the Wanganui, Rangitikei and South Taranaki regions serving the following areas:

- Wanganui;
- Marton;
- Bulls;
- Flockhouse; and
- Waitotara.

With its origins as far back as the late 1800's when gas was manufactured from coal, the Wanganui distribution system extends to virtually every street within the city, whilst the other 4 systems have all been constructed since the introduction of natural gas in the 1970's and as a result, are not as extensive within the urban areas.

2.3 Previous Pricing Methodology (effective to 30 September 2013)

The previous pricing methodology which applied up to 30 September 2013 was based on the original methodology developed in the late 1990's when GasNet, then trading as Wanganui Gas Limited, provided open access to its gas distribution networks for the first time. Although there are distinct similarities between the previous and new methodologies the key focus of this document is to address the latter. While it is relevant to refer to the previous methodology for comparative purposes this document is not intended to provide a definitive comparison between the two.

Further information on the previous methodology can be found in GasNet's "Network Pricing Methodology 1 October 2012" document which can be downloaded from GasNet's website at <u>www.gasnet.co.nz/disclosures</u>.

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2.4 Regulatory Requirements

2.4.1 Pricing Principles

Whilst acknowledging that the previous pricing methodology was founded on pricing principles in the voluntary New Zealand Gas Pipeline Access Code published by Gas House on 14 July 1998, the new pricing methodology must now comply with the *Gas Distribution Services Input Methodologies Determination 2012* administered by the Commerce Commission. This regulation requires compliance with specified pricing principles in addition to disclosure of the extent of consistency with the principles and reasons for any inconsistency. The pricing principles are provided in section 11.0 along with an explanation of how they are reflected in this pricing methodology.

2.4.2 Information Disclosure

The new pricing methodology must be disclosed in accordance with the regulatory requirements imposed by the *Gas Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012* administered by the Commerce Commission. This regulation requires all gas distribution businesses to publicly disclose at the beginning of each Pricing Year, the methodology used to determine the prices payable for the provision of gas distribution services.

An extract of the specific requirements from the Commission's determination has been provided in Appendix 2.

2.5 Strategic Review Leading to New Pricing Methodology

The new Pricing Methodology and Pricing Structure specified within this document presents the results from a strategic review undertaken by GasNet aimed at delivering a price structure that:

- a) more closely reflects the underlying costs incurred to service each consumer group by incorporating an updated cost allocation methodology;
- b) is streamlined where possible by removing unnecessary price options to improve administration efficiency;
- c) reflects the high fixed cost component of operating a gas distribution pipeline business;
- d) minimises, if not eliminates, the need to offer special "non-standard" prices;
- e) provides for the cessation of charges when a consumer's installation is physically isolated from GasNet's distribution network;
- f) is subject to an implementation plan that minimises price shock for consumers; and
- g) complies with the law, in particular the Commerce Commission's "Pricing Principles" (section 2.5.2 of the Commerce Act (Gas Distribution Services Input Methodologies) Determination 2010).

3.0 CONSULTATION ON NEW METHODOLOGY

GasNet invited submissions from its customers, the energy retailers, on proposed changes to its network Pricing Methodology and Price Structure to ensure that all changes are transparent and easily understood. Invitations were sent on 31 May 2013 via email to all eight energy retailers currently trading on GasNet's networks plus one other prospective retailer which has since signed a Distribution Services Agreement with GasNet.

Submissions were received from Contact Energy Limited and Mighty River Power Limited, neither of which raised material concerns that, in GasNet's opinion, necessitated changes to the proposed Pricing Methodology, but nevertheless the points raised have been acknowledged and will be considered in future Pricing Methodology reviews. A summary of the submissions received is provided in Appendix 4.

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Whilst recognising at the time that other parties may be interested in its pricing methodology, GasNet chose in this instance to limit consultation to the energy retailers. In addition to the limited time available for consultation as pricing needed to be finalised two (2) months prior to taking effect on 1 October 2013, GasNet needs to engage with the energy retailers prior to the implementation of any formal engagement plan with their customers, the consumers. GasNet respects the energy retailer's wishes to provide the primary point of contact with their customers and for those that do not understand the supply arrangements. It is inevitable that consumers will contact their energy retailer in the event they have any questions or concerns following any contact from GasNet.

4.0 EXISTING PRICING STRUCTURE

4.1 Large Sites

GasNet has 12 non-standard consumers, which are referred to as Large Sites. These consumers accounted for 8% of the 2012 target revenue requirement and over 67% of annual throughput on the network.

The criteria for deciding whether to enter into a non-standard contract were:

- annual throughput at the connection was greater than 10TJ; and/or
- there is a risk that the consumer may bypass the network to an alternative form of supply.

Individual pricing for each Large Site was based on each being allocated a share of the target revenue based on the value of the shared and dedicated assets used to transport the gas from the Sales Gate to the Large Site. The value of the assets was determined by either an apportionment of the original ODV of the assets employed, or an assessment of the value of optimum dedicated assets required to meet the consumer's requirements where there is a threat of network bypass. Charges for Large Sites were on a fixed daily charge basis, i.e. there were no variable charges.

With the exception of any contractually applicable annual price escalators, GasNet's obligations and responsibilities associated with Large Sites as non-standard pricing/contracts were identical to the Standard Sites referred to below.

4.2 Standard Sites

Consumers that were not classified as Large Sites were Standard Sites and as such were subject to fixed and variable charges as follows.

4.2.1 Service Charge (fixed daily charge)

Service Charges were based on an allocation of the target revenue apportioned by the value of the service pipe assets within each Load Group, where the asset value was determined from the original ODV valuation.

There are presently 10 Standard Site Load Groups each with its specific Service Charge, where the Load Groups are based on the rated capacity of the installed Gas Measurement System (GMS).

4.2.2 Supply Charge (variable charge)

Supply Charges were based on the balance of the target revenue after deducting the expected revenue from the Large Sites and the Service Charges, which was then divided by the throughput projection over the Pricing Year to provide the variable charge in \$/GJ.

For simplicity and ease of application and administration, the same Supply Charge was applied across all Standard Sites Load Groups each Pricing Year, irrespective of the capacity requirements or the utilisation of the consumers within the different Load Groups.

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4.3 CNG Sites

Following the decline of the CNG market and with the eventual closure of the last remaining CNG outlet in Wanganui in 2012, the variable CNG Charge that applied to CNG Sites ceased in 2013 and is no longer applicable.

4.4 Existing Load Groups

With the exception of the Large Sites which are individually priced, the Standard Sites are assigned a Load Group category based on the capacity requirements of each consumer connection. GasNet does not distinguish between the types of consumers connected so does not provide pricing based on whether a consumer uses gas for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes.

The existing Load Group structure is based on the capacity of the Gas Measurement System (GMS) installed at the consumer connection unless a specific capacity, the Maximum Hourly Quantity (MHQ), has been agreed between GasNet and the consumer's energy retailer.

Load Group	Criteria	Service Charge (fixed)	Supply Charge (variable)	Consumers (No.)	Throughput (GJ)
M6	Up to 6 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	9,517	233,666
M12	>6 and ≤12 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	262	22,379
M23	> 12 and ≤ 23 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	68	24,489
M33	> 23 and ≤ 33 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	14	4,674
M43	> 33 and ≤ 43 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	29	16,877
M85	> 43 and ≤ 85 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	23	42,442
M142	> 85 and ≤ 142 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	10	27,908
M200	> 142 and ≤ 200 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	2	3,446
M300	> 200 and ≤ 300 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	-	-
M450	>300 and ≤ 450 scmh	\checkmark	\checkmark	1	793
Large Sites	Indvidually priced with annual consumption >10TJ and/or at risk of bypass	\checkmark	x	12	788,946

The load groups were developed to align pricing with usage of network capacity, a key network cost driver.

9,938 1,165,620

5.0 NEW PRICING STRUCTURE

Following conclusion of the strategic review outlined in 2.5 above, new Load Groups were determined after analysis of the range of different possible combinations and a desire to minimise sensitivity to a change in the number of consumers, throughput, or asset allocations, in any one group.

The following table provides the proposed transition from the existing to the new Load Groups.

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	Existing		From 1 October 2015		
Load Group	Criteria	Load Group	Criteria	Consumers (No.)	Throughput (GJ)
M6	Up to 6 scmh	G12	Up to 12 scmh	9,779	256,045
M12	> 6 and ≤ 12 scmh	012	op to 12 seniir	5,775	230,043
M23	> 12 and ≤ 23 scmh	G40	> 12 and < 40 scmh	82	20 162
M33	> 23 and ≤ 33 scmh	640		82	29,163
M43	> 33 and ≤ 43 scmh				
M85	>43 and ≤85 scmh	G180	> 40 and ≤ 180 scmh	63	104,563
M142	> 85 and ≤ 142 scmh				
M200	> 142 and ≤ 200 scmh				
M300	> 200 and ≤ 300 scmh	G450	>180 and ≤ 450 scmh	7	116,053
M450	>300 and ≤ 450 scmh				
Large	Indvidually priced with annual consumption >10TJ and/or at	G1000	Annual consumption >20TJ and either within 900m of a Sales Gate or direct supply from a Sales Gate	7	659,796
Sites	risk of bypass	G2000	Indvidually priced	-	-

9,938 1,165,620

The primary reasons for the decision to change to the new Load Groups are summarised as follows:

- a) The existing Load Groups are closer aligned to a GMS price structure than network and originate from the late 1990's when the network and GMS activities were integral within the distribution network. From a commercial and regulatory perspective there is now distinct separation between network and GMS services, and therefore it is timely to implement a price structure more appropriate to network services.
- b) With almost 96% of the consumer base falling within the existing M6 Load Group, the remaining 4% are spread disproportionately across the remaining 10 Load Groups. The relatively fewer number of consumers spread across the greater number of Load Groups can create distortions in pricing between one Pricing Year to the next, due to the need to reallocate costs when consumers demand requirements change triggering a change in Load Group. There is an additional desire to reduce the administration costs associated with managing so many Load Groups.
- c) The format and structure of the new Load Groups are closer aligned to the pricing structures of the other gas distribution network operators in New Zealand, and whilst they do not align to any standard (as no such standard exists), they are expected to make it easier for energy retailers and consumers alike.
- d) The broader range of the new proposed Load Groups provide greater price stability for consumers on occasions when their load changes, significantly reducing disincentives to change their demand requirements. The small capacity range of the existing Load Groups do not necessarily reflect a step change in asset utilisation and/or associated costs. As an example if a consumer's demand increases resulting in a change in Load Group from M6 to M12, there is in most instances no change to the assets or the costs incurred by GasNet in providing network services to that consumer, whereas a change from M6 to the next higher M23 Load Group typically would result in asset or cost adjustment.
- e) The seven (7) consumers that comprise the new G1000 Load Group are high capacity, consume large volumes of gas and are in close proximity to the Sales Gate. Whilst each consumer profile is unique, the Total Revenue Requirement cost allocation for each is similar. In view of this and GasNet's desire to minimise the need to offer special non-standard prices, it is appropriate to group these specific consumers into the standard Pricing Structure under the new G1000 Load Group.
- f) The merger of the existing Large Sites within the standard price schedule will further reduce the regulatory reporting and administration costs associated with the non-standard consumer pricing.

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g) Whilst the new regulatory regime does not specifically require GasNet to restructure its Pricing Structure or Load Groups, it is GasNet's preference, if such a proposed change to its Load Groups is to occur, to do so at the same time it updates its Pricing Methodology.

However whilst GasNet is satisfied that there are tangible benefits in moving to the new Load Groups for the reasons outlined above and within this document, if the consensus with the energy retailers was that the existing Load Groups were appropriate and should continue unchanged, then GasNet would have seriously considered retaining the existing Load Group structure.

6.0 CHANGES TO WHEN CHARGES APPLY

GasNet has historically applied network charges in all instances where a GMS is installed at an ICP, irrespective of its status in the Gas Registry, based on the rationale that for as long as the assets remain in place and available for use, then charges should continue to apply.

Acknowledging that this policy has been the cause of concern for some energy retailers, particularly those in the mass market, in instances where network charges continue to apply where they do not have an agreement in place with a consumer and no one to pass through the costs, GasNet undertook a review of when charges should apply.

Following a review of the range of Connection Status types to which an ICP may be assigned in the Gas Registry, GasNet considered the following two scenarios where the retailer could reasonably challenge the rationale for continuing to apply charges.

- Transitional Disconnections where the gas service and/or GMS are physically disconnected from the network by the energy retailer or its agent (typically a gasfitter with additional GMS qualifications) so that gas cannot flow without the retailer, or its agent, turning on the supply when the energy retailer has a new consumer contract in place. For the duration of a Transitional Disconnection the GMS will typically remain in place and either the service valve locked off or capped, the GMS outlet capped off, or a plug is installed in the pipework; and
- 2. Active-Vacant where the energy retailer does not have a consumer contract in place for supply of gas to the property. In this situation the gas supply remains intact and continuously available for use. There is no requirement or need for the retailer, or its agent, to do anything other than initiate a status change on the Gas Registry, and therefore there is nothing physically preventing anyone from continuing to use gas at the property.

On the basis that the gas supply to a property is physically isolated from the network in the case of a Transitional Disconnection, and as the retailer has to physically intervene to effect the disconnection and incurs costs in doing so, it was not unreasonable that GasNet reconsider it's position with regard to the cessation of charges for Transitional Disconnections.

However in the case of Active-Vacant, GasNet determined that it would be a "leap too far" and unwarranted at this time to consider the cessation of charges where there is nothing physically preventing any person from continuing to use gas. GasNet has insufficient information to quantify either the potential impact from the cessation of charges during periods of Active-Vacant status, or the systems that energy retailers may have to manage gas usage and recovery of retrospective charges where it is found that gas has been consumed during periods when a consumer contract was not in place.

Based on the above and on GasNet's understanding that the new regulatory regime does not prevent GasNet from recovering the Required Revenue across a smaller population of consumers, from 1 October 2013 charges will cease for those ICP's with an ICP Status Code of "INACT", but that "ACTV" will continue to apply.

All information contained within this document is based on the reduced number of consumers resulting from Transitional Disconnections.

The following table provides a summary of the status types in the Gas Registry along with the previous and new application of charges for each.

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ICP		Connection	Network Se	ervice Charges Apply
Status Code	Valid Connection Status	Status Code	Previously	From 1 October 2013
NEW	Pre-activation, service has not yet been installed	NEW	×	×
READY	Gas ready to flow	GIR	×	×
ACTC	Gas able to flow	GAS	√	√
ACTV	Gas able to flow	GAS	√	√
INACT	Gas vacant disconnect – GMS remains, supply capped or plugged	GVC	√	×
	Gas vacant disconnect – GMS removed, supply capped or plugged	GVM	×	×
	Gas currently not required – GMS remains, supply capped or plugged	GNC	√	×
	Gas currently not required – GMS removed, supply capped or plugged	GNM	×	×
	Gas maintenance disconnect – GMS remains, supply capped or plugged	GMC	√	×
	Gas maintenance disconnect – GMS removed, supply capped or plugged	GMM	×	×
	Gas maintenance disconnect – GMS remains, service disconnected upstream of service valve by network operator	GMU	~	×
	Gas safety disconnect – GMS remains, supply capped or plugged	GSC	√	×
	Gas safety disconnect – GMS removed, supply capped or plugged	GSM	×	×
	Gas safety disconnect – GMS remains, service disconnected upstream of service valve by distributor	GSU	√	×
INACP	Gas permanent disconnect ready for GMS removal – GMS remains, supply capped or plugged	GPC	×	×
	Gas permanent disconnect ready for decommissioning – GMS removed, supply capped or plugged	GPM	×	×
DECR	Service disconnected from network outside property and service abandoned	GDE	×	×

7.0 NEW PRICING METHODOLOGY

7.1 Contiguous Networks

As the combined size of GasNet's gas distribution networks is small and as there are negligible differences in performance within or between each of the 5 discrete networks, there is no benefit in segmenting them into different pricing networks, sub-networks, or geographic areas. The Pricing Methodology and prices are therefore based on consolidation of assets and costs, with prices applied evenly across all networks.

This treatment is consistent with GasNet's previous Pricing Methodology and the new regulatory regime.

7.2 Revenue Requirements

GasNet has historically set prices based on an annual target revenue requirement which seeks the recovery of costs and an appropriate return on the assets employed. This approach is consistent with the new regulatory regime and with some minor changes to the previous methodology to maintain compliance, is expressed mathematically as follows;

Total Revenue Requirement (TRR)	=	Return on Assets	+	Depreciation	+	Operating Costs	+	Pass- through Costs	-	DPP Revenue Constraint
Where:										
Return on A	sset	ts =		Base cost perce	of of entil	AB), using capital of	a 9.0 e of	ore-tax we 9% (base vanilla W	eighte ed or ACC	atory Asset ed average n the 75th C of 7.44% for tax)
Depreciatior	= ו					ecast Reg tion for the			t Ba	ase (RAB)

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Operating Costs =	the forecast Operating Costs attributable to the network business over the Pricing Year but excluding Pass-through Costs
Pass-through Costs =	the forecast operating costs to be paid during the Pricing Year that fall within the same definition in the Gas Distribution Services Input Methodologies Determination 2012, which for GasNet include, but are not limited to:
	 Local and Regional Authority rates on GasNet's network assets payable under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002; and Levies payable to the Commerce Commission under the Commerce (Levy for Control of Natural Gas Services) Regulations 2005; and Levies payable as a member of the Electricity and Gas Complaints Commissioner Scheme.
DPP Revenue Constraint =	the amount, if any, that is required to align the target revenue with the Allowable Notional Revenue (ANR) under the Default Price-quality Path (DPP).

7.3 Asset Valuation

In 2012 GasNet developed a new RAB valuation model to provide its Regulatory Asset Base (RAB) compliant with the *Gas Distribution Services Input Methodologies Determination 2012*.

As the RAB is one of the key revenue drivers under the new DPP and the output from the valuation model is a consolidation of values down to each individual asset component, it is appropriate that the RAB is the asset valuation which is applied in the Pricing Methodology.

The 30 June 2011 RAB, being the most recent audited valuation, has been applied in GasNet's Pricing Model for the determination of the pricing included later within this document.

In future years it is expected that the RAB applied in the Pricing Model for a specific Pricing Year will be the audited valuation from the previous calendar year, i.e. for the 2014/15 Pricing Year commencing 1 October 2014, the 30 June 2013 RAB will be applied.

7.4 Revenue Allocation

7.4.1 Pricing Model

GasNet has developed a new pricing model which separately allocates each component of the Revenue Requirement, as outlined in 7.2 above, to each Load Group using appropriate cost allocators, based on the following key processes:

- Identification of the Total Revenue Requirement to be recovered from fixed and variable charges, by cost component as outlined above in 7.2;
- Allocation of consumers into the new Load Groups consistent with the new structure discussed above in 5.0;
- Input of the identifying characteristics for each Load Group (e.g. number of ICPs, GJ, MHQ, etc.) which are used to allocate costs;
- Allocation of each component of the Total Revenue Requirement to the proposed Load Groups using cost of supply allocators (referred)

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to in 7.4.2 and 7.4.3 below) in order to determine the amount of revenue to be recovered from each Load Group;

- Development of a modified set of revenue allocations such that the revenue to be recovered from each Load Group is not materially different from the previous year, taking into account changes in consumer connections and consumption. This generates a transitional revenue allocation scenario which is used to analyse and manage potential rate shock for individual consumers;
- Once the revenue requirement for each Load Group is determined, specification of the proportion of fixed and variable prices in order to test alternative price options;
- Application of the price options developed for each Load Group across the consumption bands evident in each Load Group to test the impact on high/average/low use consumers within each Load Group; and
- Refinement the price options as required in order to meet regulatory requirements, management of price shock, and implementation of pricing signals consistent with the pricing principles.

7.4.2 Allocation of Total Revenue Requirement

The Total Revenue Requirement is derived from the sum of different cost components as outlined in 7.2 above, each of which being allocated using a range of applicable allocators. Allocators are selected from available data and where such data is not available, proxies based on the underlying cost drivers.

The following table provides the cost allocators that have been applied to the cost components that comprise the Total Revenue Requirement.

Total Revenue Requirement	Cost Allocator
Cost Item	
Return on Assets	Depreciated Replacement Cost
Depreciation	Relacement Cost
Operating Costs	
Direct	Depreciated Replacement Cost
Indirect	Number of ICP's
Pass-through	Depreciated Replacement Cost
DPP Revenue Constraint	Depreciated Replacement Cost

Please note that the DPP Revenue Constraint cost item is not technically a cost but the amount, if any, by which the Total Revenue Requirement may be required to be reduced such that GasNet does not breach its price/revenue cap set by the Commerce Commission under its DPP.

7.4.3 Cost Allocators

The Cost Allocators described in 7.4.2 above and others used within the Pricing Model in the determination of prices, are described in further detail as follows.

7.4.3.1 Number of ICP's

The number of ICP's within each Load Group is based on the number of consumers expected to be connected during the Pricing Year with an ICP Status Code of "ACTC" and "ACTV" in the Gas Registry, i.e. excluding ICP's that have been subject to a Transitional Disconnection with an ICP Status Code of "INACT".

The ICP inventory is then consolidated to provide the number of ICP's that are connected to each of the 3 network pressure systems (IP, MP & LP) within each Load Group, for further use in

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		Net			
New Load Group	Existing Load Group	Intermediate Pressure (IP) Medium Pressure (MP) (Low Pressure (LP)	Number of ICP's
G12	M6	3	2,405	7,109	9,517
012	M12	2	79	181	262
G40	M23	4	47	17	68
640	M33	-	5	9	14
	M43	1	26	2	29
G180	M85	3	18	2	23
0100	M142	2	8	-	10
	Large Sites	-	1	-	1
	M200	-	2	-	2
G450	M300	-	-	-	-
G450	M450	1	-	-	1
	Large Sites	2	2	-	4
G1000	Large Sites	6	1	-	7
					9,938

establishing the value of the assets allocated to each Load Group, discussed in further detail in 7.4.3.4 below.

7.4.3.2 Consumption (GJ)

The annual consumption of gas by each consumer within each Load Group is calculated on the quantities advised by the energy retailers for each month for each ICP over the 2011/12 Pricing Year and consolidated by the appropriate Load Group.

		Net	Total		
New Load Group	Existing Load Group	Intermediate Pressure (IP)	Low Pressure (LP)		
G12	M6	49	63,304	170,314	233,667
012	M12	1,422	10,718	10,240	22,379
G40	M23	2,630	16,289	5,569	24,489
640	M33	-	578	4,096	4,674
	M43	821	15,396	660	16,877
G180	M85	2,766	38,572	1,104	42,442
0100	M142	14,445	13,463	-	27,908
	Large Sites	-	17,335	-	17,335
	M200	-	3,446	-	3,446
G450	M300	-	-	-	-
G450	M450	793	-	-	793
	Large Sites	25,515	86,298	-	111,813
G1000	Large Sites	627,309	32,487	-	659,796
					1,165,620

7.4.3.3 Hourly Capacity Demand

For the purpose of allocating asset values to each Load Group the hourly capacity demands of the consumers within each group has been attributed by their MHQ adjusted to allow for diversity of consumer demand.

The largest population of consumers of all the Load Groups is M6 (which along with the M12 makes up the new G12 Load Group) at almost 96%, the majority of which are domestic. A capacity demand MHQ of 0.5scmh has been assigned to the predominantly domestic population of M6 consumers, based on the actual maximum hourly quantity consumed in a metered residential suburb of 92 consumers within GasNet's Wanganui network during the 2011/12 Pricing Year. Engineering judgements have been made to adjust the hourly capacity demand for all other Load Groups with the ratio of diversified MHQ progressively increasing as the capacity of the Load Groups increase and the

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		Net			
New Load Group	Existing Load Group	Intermediate Pressure (IP)	Medium Pressure (MP)	Low Pressure (LP)	Hourly Capacity Demand (scmh)
G12	M6	2	1,203	3,554	4,759
612	M12	4	158	362	524
G40	M23	24	282	102	408
640	M33	-	75	135	210
	M43	25	650	50	725
G180	M85	165	990	110	1,265
0100	M142	240	960	-	1,200
	Large Sites	-	169	-	169
	M200	-	340	-	340
G450	M300	-	-	-	-
G450	M450	425	-	-	425
	Large Sites	260	624	-	884
G1000	Large Sites	-	-	-	-
					10,909

number of consumers decrease, until at the largest Load Group the capacity demand is very close to the actual rated capacity.

Please note that the values for the G1000 Load Group are nil as this Hourly Capacity Demand cost allocator is used for asset allocation purposes only, and the G1000 Load Group has been allocated their share of the actual assets as outlined in 7.4.3.4 below.

7.4.3.4 Replacement Cost and Depreciated Replacement Cost

The most recent audited Regulatory Asset Base valuation is used, that presently being the 30 June 2011 RAB.

With the exception of the G1000 Load Group, assets are allocated to each Load Group based on their Hourly Capacity Demand on each of the 3 pressure systems within the networks (IP, MP & LP) as outlined in 7.4.3.3 above.

In the case of the G1000 Load Group, the assets for each individual ICP within the group are allocated on their share of the value of the specific assets utilised by each ICP from the Sales Gate to the GMS installation, plus an allocation for non-infrastructure assets, the latter treatment being consistent with that applied to the other Load Groups. This variation is necessary due to the distortion created by these ICP's being located close to the Sales Gate and with relatively high hourly capacity demands, which results in an over-allocation of asset value.

Based on the allocation methodology described above, the apportionment of asset values to Load Groups for the 30 June 2011 RAB are as follows:

Replacement Cost		IP		MP			LP		Total	
G12	\$	2,509	0.2%	\$2,371,244	24.7%	\$2	9,439,510	90.8%	\$31,813,263	73.7%
G40	\$	10,950	1.0%	\$ 622,223	6.5%	\$	1,781,479	5.5%	\$ 2,414,652	5.6%
G180	\$	196,182	17.3%	\$4,826,148	50.2%	\$	1,202,686	3.7%	\$ 6,225,016	14.4%
G450	\$	312,523	27.5%	\$1,680,176	17.5%	\$	-	0.0%	\$ 1,992,699	4.6%
G1000	\$	613,673	54.0%	\$ 105,524	1.1%	\$	-	0.0%	\$ 719,197	1.7%
	\$	1,135,837	-	\$9,605,315	_	\$3	32,423,675		\$43,164,827	_
Depreciated IP		MP LP		LP	То					
Replacement Cost										
G12	\$	1,477	0.2%	\$1,471,441	24.7%	\$1	4,879,571	90.8%	\$16,352,489	71.0%
G40	\$	6,446	0.9%	\$ 386,111	6.5%	\$	900,411	5.5%	\$ 1,292,968	5.6%
G180	\$	115,495	16.7%	\$2,994,797	50.2%	\$	607,872	3.7%	\$ 3,718,164	16.1%
G450	\$	183,986	26.6%	\$1,042,609	17.5%	\$	-	0.0%	\$ 1,226,595	5.3%
	ć	383,811	55.5%	\$ 66,759	1.1%	\$	-	0.0%	\$ 450,570	2.0%
G1000	\$	202,011	33.3%	Ş 00,755	1.1/0	Ŷ		0.070	φ 130)570	2.0/0

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8.0 2013/14 PRICING YEAR

8.1 Revenue Requirements

Based on current estimates of the cost components and the methodology outlined in 7.2 above, the Total Revenue Requirement for the 2013/14 Pricing Year is as follows:

Cost Item		Total Revenue Requirement
Return on Assets	\$	2,161,500
Depreciation	\$	895,000
Operating Costs		
Direct	\$	645,200
Indirect	\$	967,800
Pass-through	\$	83,000
DPP Revenue Constraint	\$	(15,300)
Total Revenue Requirement	Ś	4.737.200

8.2 Revenue Requirement Allocation to Load Groups

Based on the methodology and cost components outlined above, the Revenue Requirement for 2013/14 would result in allocations to the Load Groups as set out in the following table.

			Existing Load Groups						Nev	v Lo	oad Groups				
New Load Group	Previous Load Code	Consumers (No.)		RevenueTarget Revenue%2012/132013/14Change		Revenue 2012/13			Revenue 2013/14	% Change					
G12	M6	9,517	\$	3,203,591	\$	3,403,216	6.2%	\$	3,381,060	Ś	3,612,997	6.9%			
GIZ	M12	262	\$	177,469	\$	209,781	18.2%	Ş	3,381,000	Ş	3,012,997	0.9%			
G40	M23	68	\$	170,380	\$	188,093	10.4%	\$	204.207	204.207	\$	224,257	9.8%		
640	M33	14	\$	33,827	\$	36,164	6.9%	Ş	204,207		204,207		204,207		9.0%
	M43	29	\$	117,718	\$	110,838	-5.8%					-8.8%			
G180	M85	23	\$	280,750	\$	251,390	-10.5%	Ś	682,705	\$ 6	622,810				
0100	M142	10	\$	186,508	\$	162,500	-12.9%	Ş		082,703 \$	082,703 \$	\$ 022,810	-0.8%		
	Large Sites	1	\$	97,729	\$	98,082	0.4%								
	M200	2	\$	24,009	\$	32,088	33.6%								
G450	M300	-	\$	-	\$	-	0.0%	Ś	212,534	\$	199,475	-6.1%			
6450	M450	1	\$	6,335	\$	15,265	141.0%		212,554	Ş	199,475	-0.1%			
	Large Sites	4	\$	182,190	\$	152,122	-16.5%								
G1000	Large Sites	7	\$	78,879	\$	77,661	-1.5%	\$	78,879	\$	77,661	-1.5%			
		9,938	\$	4,559,385	\$	4,737,200	3.9%	\$	4,559,385	\$	4,737,200	3.9%			

From analysis of the table above it is apparent that the Revenue Requirements for the low capacity Load Groups have increased whilst the higher capacity groups have generally been reduced, with a number of the Load Groups requiring material price increases in order to achieve the target revenue.

In view of this and the potential impact on consumers, it would not be prudent to make the change to the new Load Groups or achieve the target revenue from those groups in the first Pricing Year. It is therefore planned to implement transitional pricing for the 2013/14 Pricing Year as outlined in 8.4 below.

8.3 Reasons for the Change in Revenue Requirements between Load Groups

There are a number of reasons why there has been a shift in revenue requirements between the Load Groups as outlined below:

8.3.1 Change in Methodology

Whenever there is a change in methodology there will inevitably be a change in the outcomes. The existing methodology has not been reviewed since it was first developed in the late 1990's and in recent years with the regulatory uncertainty under which it has operated, GasNet has had to revert to standard percentage price increases across all Load Groups.

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8.3.2 Consolidation of existing Load Groups

The consolidation of two or more existing Load Groups into one new group (each previously with its own unique pricing and independent of one another), will impact differently on each group.

8.3.3 Change in Costs and Their Allocations

GasNet's building block approach to the allocation of the cost components in its determination of the Total Revenue Requirement whilst similar to that under the new DPP regime, is subtly different in a number of aspects, due to the asset valuation (RAB), the cost allocation methodology, and the target return on capital. Whilst there is a small increase in the allowable Revenue Requirement the individual cost components can vary to a greater extent.

8.3.4 Anomalies in the Existing Methodology

Due in part to a change in consumer numbers, their demand profiles and their consumption, and in part to the fact that the existing methodology has not been reviewed for a number of years, there are a number of anomalies within the existing pricing structure.

The M12 Load Group is one such example where the actual value associated with the service pipe assets on which the fixed charge was based was correct at the time but disproportionate to those in the M6 and M23 Load Groups. In this case the fixed daily charge for the higher capacity M12 Load Group at \$0.36/day is less than that for the smaller capacity M6 group at \$0.50/day. Compounded by the M12 Load Group increasing markedly over recent years as consumers, typically domestic, increase their capacity demands as they install more and/or larger appliances, the consolidation of the existing M6 and M12 Load Groups has had a greater impact on the M12 consumers than it would have, had the pricing anomaly not occurred.

8.3.5 Change from Standard Variable Charge Across all Load Groups

Whilst based on its simplicity in its administration and application within the previous Pricing Methodology, the use of the same variable pricing across all existing Load Groups has had an unintended consequence in that the higher capacity, higher consumption consumers have effectively contributed a greater portion of revenue relative to the implied cost allocation than the smaller capacity, smaller volume consumers.

If this was to continue it would inevitably result in over and under recovery across the Load Groups and as such would not satisfy the pricing principles under the new regulatory regime. Whilst it is acceptable that an imbalance will continue during the transition from the existing to a new pricing structure, the pricing applicable to consumers within each Load Group must be structured to achieve its target revenue.

8.3.6 Cessation of Charges for Transitional Disconnections

The cessation of charges for ICP's that have been subject to a Transitional Disconnection referred to in 6.0 above, has had the effect of reducing the number of ICP's over which GasNet can recover its Total Revenue Requirement. Applying almost exclusively to the domestic M6 Load Group, the number of ICP's that form the basis of the new prices has reduced by approximately 300 or 3% of the original consumer base.

8.4 Transitional Pricing for 2013/14

Based on achieving the Total Revenue Requirement in 8.1 and the need to apply transitional pricing outlined in 8.2 to reduce price shock to consumers, the existing Load Groups will continue until complete alignment can be achieved with the new Load Groups expected to be introduced in the 2015/16 Pricing Year commencing 1 October 2015.

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The transitional period during which the existing Load Groups are to continue has been determined from analysis of the price impact and by generally applying a price/revenue cap in the region of 5-10%, although there are some instances where this has not been applied, such as where a greater increase in one of the two prices (fixed or variable) is offset by a reduction in the other.

However, in consideration of the inability to determine firm pricing through to 2015 due to the wide range of variables that could impact on individual prices, it would be prudent, that there be some flexibility on the timing to implement the new Load Groups. When finalising prices for future Pricing Years, GasNet will provide information on the progress toward implementation of the new Load Groups and any potential for change in the expected timing.

The following table provides the pricing for the 2013/14 Pricing Year commencing 1 October 2013, in addition to indicative pricing adjustments for subsequent years until alignment is achieved. The greyed out cells represent the proposed change to the new Load Groups.

	TRANSITION PERIOD TO NEW LOAD GROUPS					NEV	V LOAD	GROL	JPS AF	PLY					
Existing	2012/13 Ye	Pricing ar	20	1 3/14 Pri	icing Ye	ar	20	14/15 Pr	icing Y	ear	New	20	15/16 Pr	icing Ye	ear
Load Group	Fixed	Variable	Fiz	ĸed	Var	able	Fb	ed	Var	iable	Load Group	Fib	œd	Var	iable
cicup	(\$/day)	(\$/GJ)	(\$/day)	Change	(\$/GJ)	Change	(\$/day)	Change	(\$/GJ)	Change	0.00p	(\$/day)	Change	(\$/GJ)	Change
M6	\$0.49	\$6.40	\$0.49	-0.4%	\$7.084	10.8%	\$0.50	1.8%	\$7.42	4.7%	G12	\$ 0.51	2.2%	\$7.57	2.0%
M12	\$0.36	\$6.40	\$0.49	36.5%	\$6.399	0.0%	\$0.50	1.8%	\$6.87	7.3%	G12	Ş 0.31	2.2%	ş7.57	10.2%
M23	\$0.55	\$6.40	\$0.70	26.4%	\$6.596	3.1%	\$0.71	1.9%	\$6.95	5.3%	G40	\$ 0.73	2.1%	\$7.25	4.3%
M33	\$0.77	\$6.40	\$0.70	-9.0%	\$6.761	5.7%	\$0.71	1.9%	\$7.05	4.2%		Ş 0.75	2.1%	Ş1.25	2.9%
M43	\$0.92	\$6.40	\$1.50	62.5%	\$5.980	-6.5%	\$1.53	1.9%	\$5.81	-2.9%			2.0%		0.8%
M85	\$1.11	\$6.40	\$1.50	35.5%	\$6.226	-2.7%	\$1.53	1.9%	\$5.89	-5.5%	G180	\$ 1.56	2.0%	\$5.85	-0.6%
M142	\$2.19	\$6.40	\$1.50	-31.6%	\$6.372	-0.4%	\$1.53	1.9%	\$5.93	-6.9%		Ş 1.50	2.0%	Ş J.6J	-1.4%
Large Sites	Individua	lly Priced	-	ndividual	ly Price	ł	I	ndividua	Ily Price	ed			-		-
M200	\$2.70	\$6.40	\$15.00	456.4%	\$4.626	-27.7%	\$25.50	70.0%	\$3.34	-27.8%			63.1%		
M300	\$3.024	\$6.40	\$15.00	396.0%	\$4.626	-27.7%	\$25.50	70.0%	\$3.34	-27.8%	G450	\$41.60	63.1%	\$0.87	-73.9%
M450	\$3.454	\$6.40	\$15.00	334.3%	\$5.077	-20.6%	\$25.50	70.0%	\$5.04	-0.8%		Ş41.6U	63.1%	ŞU.87	
Large Sites	Individua	lly Priced		ndividual	ly Price	ł	1	ndividua	lly Price	ed			-		-
Large Sites	Individua	lly Priced		ndividual	ly Price	d	I	ndividua	lly Price	d	G1000	\$15.60	-	\$0.06	-

Please note that pricing shown in the above table for the 2014/15 Pricing Year (and subsequent years) is indicative only and subject to change. The pricing for the subsequent years is provided to demonstrate the transition from the existing to the new Load Groups and how the prices may change within the existing Load Groups to achieve complete transition for the 2015/16 Pricing Year commencing 1 October 2015. The price adjustments are based on the existing Revenue Requirements and apart from allowance for annual CPI increases, make no provision for cost changes, adjustments due to change in cost allocation from changes in allocators, or the number of consumers or their throughput.

The actual prices that will apply for the 2013/14 Pricing Year from 1 October 2013 are provided in Appendix 1 and can be downloaded from GasNet's website at <u>www.gasnet.co.nz/disclosures</u>.

8.5 Revenue Recovery by Load Group

The following table provides the 2013/14 revenue requirement by Load Group based on the pricing indicated in 8.4 above compared to the revenue for the 2012/13 Pricing Year, in addition to the consumer numbers and throughput for each.

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New Load Group	Existing Load	Consumers	Throughput	20	12/13 Pricing Year	2	013/14 Priciı	ng Year
(from 1 October 2015)	Group	Connected	(GJ)		Total Revenue	То	tal Revenue	Change
G12	M6	9,517	233,667	\$	3,203,591	\$	3,357,364	4.8%
612	M12	262	22,379	\$	177,469	\$	190,069	7.1%
G40	M23	68	24,489	\$	170,380	\$	178,899	5.0%
G40	M33	14	4,674	\$	33,827	\$	35,180	4.0%
	M43	29	16,877	\$	117,718	\$	116,797	-0.8%
G180	M85	23	42,442	\$	280,750	\$	276,821	-1.4%
9190	M142	10	27,908	\$	186,508	\$	183,296	-1.7%
	Large Sites	1	17,335	\$	97,729	\$	98,082	0.4%
	M200	2	3,446	\$	24,009	\$	26,890	12.0%
G450	M300	-	-	\$	-			0.0%
6450	M450	1	793	\$	6,335	\$	9,503	50.0%
	Large Sites	4	111,814	\$	182,190	\$	181,241	-0.5%
G1000	Large Sites	7	659,796	\$	78,879	\$	83,058	5.3%
		9,938	1,165,620		4,559,385		4,737,200	3.9%

8.6 Fixed and Variable Charge Apportionment

On aggregate the total revenue from fixed daily charges comprise 46.2% and the variable throughput charges 53.8% of the total annual Revenue Requirement for the 2013/14 Pricing Year based on the provisional pricing indicated in 8.4 above.

9.0 PRICING METHODOLOGY REVIEW

Whilst the recent review of GasNet's pricing methodology is considered to be a periodic review for the next 5 or more years (at least for the first regulatory period from 1 July 2013 to 30 September 2017), it will be the subject of on-going review, particularly during the transitional period until the new Load Groups have been phased in.

It is anticipated that as GasNet's systems will be modified to meet the new Information Disclosure requirements. The disaggregation of some cost information may provide potential opportunities to target the specific consumers and their Load Groups that cause the cost to be incurred.

Significant changes to the methodology will be subject to consultation with interested parties as considered appropriate for the change proposed. Changes that are minor by nature are referred to in the annual Pricing Methodology document produced by GasNet and published on its website prior to the commencement of the Pricing Year to which it applies.

10.0 FIVE YEAR PRICING STRATEGY

GasNet's pricing strategy is to implement its new Pricing Methodology from 1 October 2013 over a transitional period of sufficient duration to minimise price shock to consumers whilst not unnecessarily prolonging implementation to the new pricing structure and Load Groups.

Based on the information to date and that contained within this document, it is expected that complete implementation of the new pricing methodology will be achievable for the 2015/16 Pricing Year commencing 1 October 2015.

11.0 COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRICING PRINCIPLES

GasNet is required under the IDD to describe the extent to which its pricing methodology is consistent with a set of gas distribution pricing principles. The table below summarises these pricing principles and how they are reflected in this pricing methodology.

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Pricing Principle	Extent to which pricing methodology is consistent with pricing principles
(1) Prices are to signal the economic costs of service provision, by:	
(a) being subsidy free (equal to or greater than incremental costs, and less than or equal to standalone costs), except where subsidies arise from compliance with legislation and/or other regulation;	Incremental costs are the additional upfront and ongoing costs GasNet face in connecting a new consumer to the network. This typically includes costs associated with connection assets, ongoing operations and maintenance costs specific to that consumer, and network augmentation costs.
	GasNet's capital contributions policy requires a capital contribution from new consumers when the incremental capital costs associated with a new connection exceed the present value of expected future revenues. The combination of capital contributions and gas distribution prices therefore ensures that our prices are in excess of incremental capital costs.
	Operating and maintenance expenditure is recovered through distribution prices. Our fixed charge, based on a daily charge, ensures that we at least recover some of these incremental costs regardless of consumption. Charges also increase with the capacity size of the connection, which aligns pricing to incremental operating costs associated with various connection sizes.
	Stand alone costs are the full cost a consumer would face in being supplied from an alternative gas distribution system or alternative form of supply. For gas, stand alone cost is most likely to represent the full cost of converting from gas to electricity, including the cost of replacing gas appliances. GasNet has set its prices and pricing structures mindful of the fact that consumers have alternative supply options. Our pricing, and commercial business proposition, seeks to incentivise consumers connecting, and remaining connected, to distributed gas.
	Large consumers may also have options to bypass the distribution network for alternative networks, particularly where the consumer is close to a gas sales gate. GasNet has historically offered non-standard pricing contracts to a number of Large Sites with annual throughput of greater than 10TJ. These non-standard pricing arrangements reduce bypass risk by making it economic for these consumers to connect, and remain connected, to the network. As part of our pricing review, we have identified that existing non-standard customers can be grouped by similar characteristics and that transitioning these consumers to standard price categories is now appropriate. Nevertheless, in adopting these new standard price categories we remain mindful of the bypass threat, and have set prices to discourage this for most consumers transitioning from non-standard price categories.
(b) having regard, to the extent practicable, to the level of available service capacity; and	GasNet sets its consumer groups to align with standard load group types based on typical connection sizes. This aligns pricing with various end-consumer usage profiles and with the capacity of their connection assets, a key network cost driver.

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Pricing Principle	Extent to which pricing methodology is consistent with pricing principles
(c) signalling, to the extent practicable, the impact of additional usage on future investment costs.	GasNet's prices are based on a daily fixed supply charge and a consumption based tariff (in GJs). The consumption tariff ensures consumers that use more are charged more. This basic principle is effective in signalling the impact of additional usage on future investment costs. Similarly, the supply charge applying to each load grouping increases relative to the standard capacity size of the connection. This signals that larger connections typically have higher consumption and peak demand and therefore create higher investment costs.
(2) Where prices based on 'efficient' incremental costs would under-recover allowed revenues, the shortfall should be made up by setting prices in a manner that has regard to consumers' demand responsiveness, to the extent practicable.	GasNet's pricing is not based on willingness to pay or demand responsiveness considerations, but on load groupings based on typical connection sizes. We consider this most appropriately aligns with our investments in capacity, which is a key network cost driver.
 (3) Provided that prices satisfy (1) above, prices should be responsive to the requirements and circumstances of stakeholders in order to: 	
(a) discourage uneconomic bypass;	This principle allows for pricing and other incentives to discourage consumers bypassing GasNet's network to another supply alternative. As discussed above, GasNet seeks to discourage consumers bypassing the network in setting prices for Large Site. This pricing recognises the alternative supply options these consumers have available to them.
(b) allow negotiation to better reflect the economic value of services and enable consumers to make price/quality trade-offs or non- standard arrangements for services.	This principle allows for negotiation over price in recognition of different levels of service or other arrangements of value to consumers. Price and quality trade-offs are primarily addressed under our capital contributions policy when scoping connection asset specifications. We are also always open to discussing non-standard pricing arrangements where appropriate.
(4) Development of prices is transparent, promotes price stability and certainty for consumers, and changes to prices have regard to the effect on consumers.	This methodology transparently sets out the approach we have adopted to determine prices for consumers connection to the network, and is publicly available via GasNet's website www.gasnet.co.nz.

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Appendix 1 – Network Services Price Schedule: Effective 1 October 2013



Network Services Price Schedule

Effective from 1 October 2013

GasNet is required by law to disclose details of the prices that apply to transport natural gas through its gas distribution network to consumers in Wanganui, Marton, Bulls, Flockhouse and Waitotara. GasNet does not charge consumers directly but instead charges the energy retailer who in turn will pass these costs through to the consumer.

The charges that energy retailers pay GasNet are calculated by multiplying the number of days a consumer is connected to GasNet's network by the daily fixed charge from the schedule below, then adding to that the amount of gas the consumer has used multiplied by the variable charge.

Load	Capaci	ty (m³/hr)	Consumer	Charge	Unit	New Prices	Prices up to
Group	More	Less than	Numbers	Туре	Charges	from 1	30
	Than	or Equal To				October 2013	September
							2013
M6	0	6	9,517	Fixed	\$/day	0.490	0.492
IVIO	1010	0	5,517	Variable	\$/GJ	7.084	6.396
M12	C	12	262	Fixed	\$/day	0.490	0.359
IVIIZ	M12 6	12	202	Variable	\$/GJ	6.399	6.396
1422	12	22	60	Fixed	\$/day	0.700	0.554
M23	12	23	68	Variable	\$/GJ	6.596	6.396
M33	22	22	14	Fixed	\$/day	0.700	0.769
M33 23	33	14	Variable	\$/GJ	6.761	6.396	
N442	22	43	20	Fixed	\$/day	1.500	0.923
M43	33	43	29	Variable	\$/GJ	5.980	6.396
M85	43	85	23	Fixed	\$/day	1.500	1.107
COIVI	43	65	23	Variable	\$/GJ	6.226	6.396
M142	85	142	10	Fixed	\$/day	1.500	2.194
101142	65	142	10	Variable	\$/GJ	6.372	6.396
14200	142	200	2	Fixed	\$/day	15.000	2.696
M200	142	200	2	Variable	\$/GJ	4.626	6.396
M200	200	200	0	Fixed	\$/day	15.000	3.024
M300	200	300	0	Variable	\$/GJ	4.626	6.396
MAEO	200	450	1	Fixed	\$/day	15.000	3.454
M450	300	450	1	Variable	\$/GJ	5.077	6.396

<u>Notes</u>

1. All rates are exclusive of GST.

2. Charges apply when the ICP Status Code in the Gas Registry is ACTC or ACTV

3. Additional information is available on our website www.gasnet.co.nz.

4. If you have any questions please email us at enquiries@gasnet.co.nz or call us at (06) 349 2050.

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Appendix 2 - Information Disclosure Determination Requirements

Clause 2.4 of the Commerce Act (Gas Distribution Services Information Disclosure) Determination 2012 states that, before the start of each Pricing Year (which for GasNet is 1 October – 30 September), every gas distribution business must publicly disclose a pricing methodology that satisfies the following extract, taken directly from the Commerce Commission's determination, which can be downloaded in its entirety from their website at www.comcom.govt.nz/gas-information-disclosure. Any uncertainty regarding the terms used in the extract or its context may be able to be resolved by referring to the source document.

2.4 PRICING AND RELATED INFORMATION

Disclosure of pricing methodologies

- 2.4.1 Every GDB must publicly disclose, before the start of each pricing year, a pricing methodology which-
 - 1) Describes the methodology, in accordance with clause 2.4.3 of this section, used to calculate the prices payable or to be payable;
 - 2) Describes any changes in prices and target revenues;
 - 3) Explains, in accordance with clause 2.4.5 of this section, the approach taken with respect to pricing in non-standard contracts;
 - 4) Explains whether, and if so how, the GDB has sought the views of consumers, their expectations in terms of price and quality, and reflected those views in calculating the prices payable or to be payable. If the GDB has not sought the views of consumers, the reasons for not doing so must be disclosed.
- 2.4.2 Any change in the pricing methodology or adoption of a different pricing methodology, must be publicly disclosed at least 20 working days before prices determined in accordance with the change or the different pricing methodology take effect.
- 2.4.3 Every disclosure under clause 2.4.1 above must-
 - Include sufficient information and commentary to enable interested persons to understand how prices were set for each consumer group, including the assumptions and statistics used to determine prices for each consumer group;
 - (2) Demonstrate the extent to which the pricing methodology is consistent with the pricing principles and explain the reasons for any inconsistency between the pricing methodology and the pricing principles;
 - (3) State the target revenue expected to be collected for the pricing year to which the pricing methodology applies;
 - (4) Where applicable, identify the key components of target revenue required to cover the costs and return on investment associated with the GDB's provision of gas pipeline services. Disclosure must include the numerical value of each of the components;
 - (5) State the consumer groups for whom prices have been set, and describe
 - a. the rationale for grouping consumers in this way;
 - b. the method and the criteria used by the GDB to allocate consumers to each of the consumer groups;
 - (6) If prices have changed from prices disclosed for the immediately preceding pricing year, explain the reasons for changes, and quantify the difference in respect of each of those reasons;
 - (7) Where applicable, describe the method used by the GDB to allocate the target revenue among consumer groups, including the numerical values of the target revenue allocated to each consumer group and the rationale for allocating it in this way;
 - (8) State the proportion of target revenue (if applicable) that is collected through each price component as publicly disclosed under clause 2.4.18.
- 2.4.4 Every disclosure under clause 2.4.1 above must, if the GDB has a pricing strategy-
 - (1) Explain the pricing strategy for the next 5 pricing years (or as close to 5 years as the pricing strategy allows), including the current pricing year for which prices are set;
 - (2) Explain how and why prices are expected to change as a result of the pricing strategy;
 - (3) If the pricing strategy has changed from the preceding pricing year, identify the changes and explain the reasons for the changes.

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- 2.4.5 Every disclosure under clause 2.4.1 above must-
 - (1) Describe the approach to setting prices for non-standard contracts, including
 - a. the extent of non-standard contract use, including the number of ICPs represented by non-standard contracts and the value of target revenue expected to be collected from consumers subject to non-standard contracts;
 - b. how the GDB determines whether to use a non-standard contract, including any criteria used;
 - c. any specific criteria or methodology used for determining prices for consumers subject to non-standard contracts, and the extent to which these criteria or that methodology are consistent with the pricing principles;
 - (2) Describe the GDB's obligations and responsibilities (if any) to consumers subject to nonstandard contracts in the event that the supply of gas pipeline services to the consumer is interrupted. This description must explain
 - a. the extent of the differences in the relevant terms between standard contracts and non-standard contracts;
 - b. any implications of this approach for determining prices for consumers subject to non-standard contracts.

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Appendix 3 – Pricing Methodology Consultation Paper: Analysis of Submissions Received

The following is a summary of the two submissions received (Contact Energy Limited and Mighty River Power Limited) in response to an invitation sent to the energy retailers currently trading on GasNet's networks plus one other prospective retailer which has since signed a Distribution Services Agreement with GasNet.

General Comments

Submitter	Response
Mighty River Power	Mighty River Power is always concerned about the impact of price increases like those proposed by GasNet as these ultimately fall on our customers. As you know gas is a discretionary fuel and every price increase creates a risk that existing gas users may reconsider their continued use of gas and prospective gas users may decide against connecting to gas
GasNot Posponso	

GasNet Response

GasNet acknowledges the concerns and is very much aware of the market sensitivity and adverse impact that any increase in price may have on consumer behaviour. The planned introduction of the new pricing over 3 years should reduce the risk of rate shock and sudden loss of consumers. GasNet will reassess the impact of its pricing on consumers and the timing for implementation of the new Load Groups each year prior to finalising its pricing and make appropriate changes, including if necessary, further consultation with the energy retailers and any other interested parties.

Restructuring of the Load Groups

Submitter	Response
Contact Energy	We are comfortable with the proposed structure from 1/4/15 which will be a consolidation of existing load groups and a change to the load group codes away from alignment with GMS categories
Mighty River Power	We accept that there are no industry standards for load groups. We would however suggest that given there are only three open access gas distribution network operators that it is not unreasonable for gas retailers to ask that a load grouping standard be agreed between these three operators. In the same way that the restructuring of your load groups will result in administration efficiencies, an industry standard set of load groups would create administrative efficiencies for gas retailers
development of the I	t of industry standard Load Groups this would have been the natural starting point for new Load Groups and GasNet would have been committed to adopting them to the ble. However in acknowledging this, there are numerous considerations that must be

made in developing the pricing structure, many of which are addressed in the Pricing Methodology document, such that it may not be feasible to work strictly to a suite of standard Load Groups.

Timeframe for Implementation of the New Load Groups

Submitter	Response
Contact Energy	While we appreciate GasNet's desire to minimise rate shock, we often consider it is easier to take the pain up front and once only by moving in one pricing round to the final pricing. Given the total revenue does not appear to change materially for the first year, it may be easier to "sell" a single step change to the 1/4/15 load group structure and pricing on the basis of the new structure being based on a more rational pricing methodology
Mighty River Power	Finally we support GasNet's proposal to introduce the new increased pricing over a three year period as it is important wherever possible that rate shock is avoided particularly when there is also a change in pricing structure such as the proposed changes in load groups
GasNot Rosnonso	

GasNet Response

Although desirable to implement the New Load Groups sooner rather than later, GasNet is concerned with the risk of rate shock and the potential for consumers to switch away to other energy forms. Whilst the total revenue does not change significantly there are some material changes in prices as a result of the realignment of the existing Load Groups to the new. With the transition occurring over a 3 year period it provides the opportunity for GasNet to review the implementation process at any stage if there appears to be any adverse impact on consumers.

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Cessation of Charges

Submitter	Response
Contact Energy	We agree with the change to only charge fixed charges for active ICP-days (ACTC & ACTV), and to stop charging for ICPs with an INACT status. It would be great to take the "leap too far" as ultimately the costs of vacant disconnections which are intended only to avoid fixed network and metering charges (as opposed to disconnections intended to deal with vacant consumption risk) are not directly recoverable (because there is no customer contract) and therefore they are recovered as an overhead from all other active consumers
Mighty River Power	We support GasNet's proposal to stop network charges for vacant supplies where the supply has been subject to a transitional disconnection. This will however simply align GasNet with the other network and GMS operators. Will GasNet also stop GMS charges once a supply has been transitionally disconnected? Mighty River Power does not accept GasNet's position with regards to stopping charges where a supply is a vacant/active supply. In our opinion if there is no customer contract on a gas supply then there is no income from that supply therefore the fixed charges for network and GMS service should be discontinued. The gas retailer still incurs the costs associated with reading the gas meter at the property, in our case every month, and is therefore monitoring the supply with regards to any gas use. Gas retailers however receive no income from that supply to cover these costs
charges cease for IC	es and respects the wishes of both Contact Energy and Mighty River Power that Ps with an ACTV status, but has not changed its position for the reasons specified in gy document (section 6.0).GasNet's position will be reviewed and reconsidered at the ogy review.

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Appendix 4 – Compliance with the Price Path

The following information is provided for informative purposes to demonstrate GasNet's compliance of the Pricing Methodology and the Prices that apply from 1 October 2013 with the Commerce Commission "Gas Distribution Services Default Price-Quality Path Determination 2013".

Allowable notional revenue for the First Assassment Period (Schedule 2 of the DPD Determination)

	ional Revenue for 2013 (ANR ₂₀₁₃)
ANR ₂₀₁₃ = MAR	/ ΔD
Where: VIAR (\$m) VD	is the starting price specified in Sch 1 of the DPP Determination (\$4.578m) is the value specified in Table 2 of Sch 3 in the DPP Determination (0.989)
Therefore:	
ANR ₂₀₁₃ (\$m)	\$ 4.629
Allowable Not	ional Revenue for 2014 (ANR ₂₀₁₄)
ANR ₂₀₁₄ =(ANR ₂	$_{013} \times CPR_{2012})(1 + \Delta CPI_{2014})(1 - X)$
Where:	
ANR ₂₀₁₃	is the Allowable Notional Revenue for the Pricing Period ending in 2013 as calculated above (\$4.629m)
CPR ₂₀₁₂	is the value specified in Table 2 of Sch 3 in the DPP Determination (0.995)
(is the rate of change as specifed in Sch 2 of the DPP Determination (0)
∆CPI ₂₀₁₄	is the derived change in the CPI to be applied for the pricing Period ending in 2014 being equal to:
	$\Delta CPI_{2014} = (CPI_{Jun\ 2012} + CPI_{Sep\ 2012} + CPI_{Dec\ 2012} + CPI_{Mar\ 2013})/CPI_{Jun\ 2011} + CPI_{Sep\ 2011} + CPI_{Dec\ 2011} + CPI_{Mar\ 2012})-1$
Therefore:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1000 CPI 2014	0.00883
ANR ₂₀₁₄ (\$m)	\$ 4.646

DPP Determination)

Notional Revenue for each Assessment Period must not exceed the Allowable Notional Revenue for the Assessment Period, such that for the First Assessment Period (1 July 2013 to 30 September 2014):

	$ANR_{First Assessment Period} \ge NR_{First Assessment Period}$				
i.	e. $0.25 \times ANR_{2013} + ANR_{2014} \ge 0.25 \times NR_{2013} + NR_{2014}$				
Where:					
ANR ₂₀₁₃	is the Allowable Notional Revenue for the Pricing Period ending in 2013 as calculated above (\$4.629m)				
ANR ₂₀₁₄	is the Allowable Notional Revenue for the Pricing Period ending in 2013 as calculated above (\$4.646m)				
NR ₂₀₁₃	is the Notional Revenue for the Pricing Period ending in 2013 being equal to:				
	$NR_{2013} = \Sigma_1 P_{1,2013} \times Q_{1,2011} - (K_{2013} + V_{2013})$				
Σ _i P _{i,2013} x Q _{i,201}	is the revenue from all Load Groups based on the 2011 quantities and the 2013 prices for each individual Load Group as				
	calculated in the table below (\$2.221m + \$2.336m)				
K ₂₀₁₃	is nil for the Pricing Year ending in 2013				
V ₂₀₁₃	is nil for the Pricing Year ending in 2013				
NR ₂₀₁₄	is the Notional Revenue for the Pricing Period ending in 2014 being equal to:				
	$NR_{2014} = \Sigma_i P_{i,2014} \times Q_{i,2012} - (K_{2014} + V_{2014})$				
$\Sigma_i P_{i,2014} \ge Q_{i,2014}$	² is the revenue from all Load Groups based on the 2012 quantities and the 2014 prices for each individual Load Group as calculated in the table below (\$2.193m + \$2.555m)				
K ₂₀₁₄	is the sum of all Pass-through Costs for the Pricing Year ending in 2014 (\$0.083m)				
V ₂₀₁₄	is the sum of all Recoverable Costs for the Pricing Year ending in 2014 (nil)				
Therefore:					
0.25 x ANR ₂₀₁₃	+ ANR ₂₀₁₄ = \$5.804m				
0.25 x NR ₂₀₁₃ -	+ ANR ₂₀₁₄ = \$5.804m NR ₂₀₁₄ = \$5.804m NCtional Revenue (NR) does not exceed Allowable Notional Revenue (ANR) so condition is satisfied				

Fixed Charges (per day /ariable harges (pe Load Group P₂₀₁₃ P₂₀₁₄ 55.216 ICPs₂₀₁₁ Q₂₀₁₁ ICPs₂₀₁₂ Q₂₀₁₂ P2013 x Q2011 P2014 x Q2012 Q₂₀₁₁ Q₂₀₁₂ P2013 P₂₀₁₄ P2013 x Q2011 P2014 x Q2012 21,090 154,872 365 365 366 20,20 144,55 1232 366 24,8 8,98 C12329 365 366 7.873 14.171 2,874 5,18 59,332 60,67 C12337 365 366 \$ 20.849 20.726 7,610 7,586 31,909 30,173 57,047 C14688 365 366 \$ 156.292 168.795 61,779 67,683 63,924 132.953 16.728 139.671 C14691 365 366 127.391 48.528 46,625 20,797 40,303 22.374 C16459 365 365 366 366 21.070 6,106 50,980 7.712 37.16 18,540 19,898 48,476 6.226 2,559 C19475 C26262 C26444 365 1.107 30.112 1.500 28.800 404 6,006 22,699 411 32,487 -366 - 10,541 365 10,991 11,704 161,615 365 366 25.583 31.979 9,338 169,003 C26779 365 366 267.751 268.718 97,729 98,351 18,172 17,335 1 1 C31266 365 1 366 57.177 55.593 20,870 20,347 194,968 185,747 1 CNG 365 54 8.528 460 -48,242 5,490 5,490 17,678 M12 M142 98,454 3,660 0.359 2.194 0.490 34,855 9,610 21,754 25,550 1,880 22,857 22,379 27,908 6.399 6.372 139,141 163,420 143,210 177,821 15,940 97,090 269 10 6.396 6.396 266 12 4,380 M200 36 366 25,254 2.696 0.554 15.000 984 13,346 3,446 24,489 6.396 6.396 \$ 4.626 \$ 6.596 12,025 24,090 146,194 M23 66 69 0.700 161,525 M33 14 5,110 15 5,490 0.769 0.700 3,930 3,843 4,344 4,674 \$ 6.396 \$ 6.761 27,782 31,603 M43 32 11,680 30 10,980 0.923 1.500 10,781 16,470 18,123 16,877 \$ 6.396 \$ 5.980 115,912 100,920 M450 365 366 3.454 15.000 1,261 5,490 1,909 793 \$ 6.396 \$ 5.077 \$ 6.396 \$ 7.084 12,212 4,028 231.656 233.666 M6 (Active 9.583 3,497,795 3,497,130 0.492 0.490 1.720.915 1.713.594 1.481.672 1.655.248 8,784 \$ 111,630 \$ 9.125 24 305 1.107 1.500 10,101 13,176 37,009 42,031 6.396 \$ 6.226 236,710 261,670 M6 (Inactive) 314 114,610 0.492 56,388 2,192,846 2,335,528 \$ 2,554,525 ,221,371

Σ_iP_{i2013} x Q_{i2011} Σ_iP_{i2014} x Q_{i2012}

Σ_iP_{i2013} x Q_{i2011} Σ_iP_{i2014} x Q_{i2012}

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Appendix 5 - Director Certification

(Pursuant to the Gas Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012)

Schedule 18: Certification for Disclosures at the Beginning of a Pricing Year

Clause 2.9.2

- 1. We, Matthew James Doyle and Harvey George Green, being directors of GasNet Limited certify that, having made all reasonable enquiry, to the best of our knowledge:
 - a. the following attached information of GasNet Limited prepared for the purposes of clause 2.4.1 of the Gas Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012 in all material respects complies with that determination.
 - b. The prospective financial or non-financial information included in the attached information has been forecast on a basis consistent with regulatory requirements or recognised industry standards.

Matthew James Dovle

Harvey George Green

20/3 20 Date

19/7/2013 Date

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