



**THE HON JIM CHALMERS MP**  
**TREASURER**

Ref: MC22-014687

22 October 2022

Ms Gina Cass-Gottlieb  
Chair  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Cass-Gottlieb

As you may be aware, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising energy prices and whether the regulatory arrangements governing our east coast gas markets are fit for purpose. The Government is actively considering what can be done to help alleviate these pressures.

Through its ongoing Gas Inquiry, the ACCC has developed technical and subject matter expertise on the operation of Australian and international gas markets, and the regulatory frameworks governing those markets.

I am writing to request that the ACCC work closely with my Department to examine the operation of the voluntary code of conduct for the negotiation and development of Gas Supply Agreements between Gas Suppliers and Gas Customers in Australia (the Code of Conduct) and prepare advice to improve its operation with the intention of making it mandatory. This advice should include options to improve the effectiveness and operation of the Code of Conduct that will improve price transparency and better define a reasonable offer, including consideration of reasonable prices.

In addition to the examination of the Code of Conduct, I request that the ACCC consider and provide advice to my Department on other steps to improve the functioning of our east coast gas markets.

I trust that in assisting my Department, the ACCC will seek to reflect the perspectives of both gas industry participants and gas users.

I request that the ACCC provide advice on this matter to my Department by mid-November 2022 and continue to work closely with my Department as it prepares recommendations.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Jim Chalmers MP

CC: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister, the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia, the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science, Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism, the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury.