Date Introduced: 31 March 1980
House: Senate
Presented by: Senator the Hon. Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, on behalf of the Minister for National Development and Energy

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To authorize the construction of a natural gas spur pipeline from Dalton N.S.W. to Canberra.

Background and Provisions

Since Canberra experiences cold weather for much of the year, there is a need for reasonably priced home heating fuels. Canberra has used a number of fuels over the years, from firewood to heating oil, distillate and LPG. At present, the use of electricity and firewood for space heating is increasing because heating oil, distillate and LPG have become very expensive for the household. For example, the price of distillate has increased from about 5 cents/litre in 1973 to about 25 cents/litre today. Electricity is cheaper, but the increased demand is likely to strain local allocations. Natural gas supplied from a spur line leaving the main Sydney pipeline at Dalton would therefore provide a welcome new fuel for Canberra. The Bill includes an authority to the Pipeline Authority to construct the pipeline (Clause 3) and an estimate of total cost ($7,500,000, Clause 4). The Schedule describes the route of the pipeline; this can be varied by up to 1,000 metres on either side (Sub-clause 3(2)).