



**Gas Appliance
Manufacturers
Association of
Australia**

Gas Energy Australia National Forum - Delivering Energy Diversity

The Gas 2015 National Forum was hosted by Gas Energy Australia on 26 and 27 November successfully brought together key leaders and representatives from industry, government and academia to discuss the critical issues influencing the future of Australia's energy sector, including the environment, innovation, energy security, health and safety, and government regulations.

The program included industry, business development and technical development streams with more than 120 delegates from over 30 different organisations in attendance. During the 2 day event there was plenty of time to collaborate and network for all participants.

Technical development topics covered energy supply security, gas safety practices and the role of regulations in the energy industry. Delegates discussed the important role of LPG in providing an energy source for cooking, heating, refrigeration and lighting on short notice in any location after disasters. The importance of accountability and an assessment process for the introduction, removal or amendment of regulations was also highlighted to ensure that market failures are addressed during changing circumstances.

Key findings from the forum included:

- The strong potential for gaseous fuels to meet Australia's energy security needs
- That gas engines vehicle technology developments are closing the gap with conventional vehicles in terms of performance and capital cost
- The need for continued collaboration between government and industry on future challenges in the energy sector regarding emissions and removing unnecessary regulations

The 2015 Energy White Paper was presented during the forum discussing the wholesale market with the aim to competitively provide cost effective energy through competition productivity and investment.

As the LNG market increases to 80 million tonnes by 2019, it is anticipated the east coast gas market will be linked to the Asian market. However there is significant uncertainty regarding policy, availability and pricing. This will require further development of the wholesale market. The ACCC is currently investigating competition in the wholesale market, with their report due in 2016.

Energy security will become a topic of further discussion in coming years as the current structure of the energy market has a reliance of imported fuels for transport with 90% of fuels imported. With our indigenous gas supplies we have the opportunity to change the reliance of imported fuel to locally sourced fuel for transport, this would allow Australia to move from a JIT approach.

Regardless of the willingness of Government's to be involved in the gas market, there is the risk that the market will determine an outcome that is not the one you want. However the Government is willing to "assist" the renewables market. Security of energy supply is not on the national agenda.

GAS
Connections