

Glacial progress on gas crisis cold comfort to industry

Ai Group press release 20 April

"Yesterday's meeting between the Prime Minister and the gas producers represents little progress on a crisis that is damaging Australian businesses, and the Government needs to hold open the door to dramatic intervention," Australian Industry Group Chief Executive Innes Willox said.

"We welcome the measures to improve transparency in a murky market and to bed down gas supply to the electricity generators that keep our grid stable. But gas producers and exporters appear to be in denial that there is a serious imbalance between gas supply and gas demand in Eastern Australia.

"Gas prices are skyrocketing far beyond parity with export prices. While there is a lively debate about issues in the pipeline and retail segments and how to improve them, there has been no major change in those sections of the market that can explain the rise in gas prices offered to industry from around \$6 a gigajoule two years ago to as much as \$24 a gigajoule today.

"The gas market is out of balance. If government and suppliers cannot act fast to free up gas for the domestic market, while putting in place longer term supply and demand side measures, the only way to rebalance the market is for prices to keep rising until enough gas users go out of business.

"No business that was facing gas price disaster this morning will have been reassured by the outcome of yesterday's meeting.

"Ai Group has proposed commercial gas swap arrangements, backed up by a robust national interest assessment of existing and future gas exports. Those steps remain open to the Government and the gas industry. With every day that passes the price crunch hits more energy users, threatening jobs and investment across basic chemicals, food processing, metals manufacturing, pulp and paper, and much more. Time is running out," Mr Willox said.

\$4m gas pipeline playing pivotal role in \$1.2 billion residential development in S.A.

AGN media release 4 April

A new \$4 million, 10 kilometer natural gas pipeline is playing a crucial role in one of the largest residential developments ever undertaken in South Australia.

Australian Gas Networks (AGN) – Australia's leading gas distribution business – has constructed the 10km natural gas supply main to a new \$1.2 billion development being built in one of SA's fastest growing regions by the Hickinbotham Group.

The ambitious Eden and Liberty project at Two Wells - about 50km north of Adelaide - includes the construction of more than 3000 homes, a range of community facilities, a "birth to Year 12" school, and more than 50 hectares of landscaped open space reserves.

In a history-making boon for the area, it is the first-time natural gas will be available in the region.

"AGN is delighted to be delivering such a crucial piece of infrastructure to this exciting new residential development," said Australian Gas Networks Chief Operating Officer, Mr Andrew Staniford.

"This new pipeline will cater for the forecast strong growth in the area with over 3000 homes, together with supporting retail and general industry infrastructure, expected to be built as part of the development over the next 20 years," he said. [Read more here](#)

WA's new Premier to address APPEA 2017

APPEA 19 April

Western Australia's new Premier, the Hon Mark McGowan MLA, will address the opening session of APPEA 2017 at the Perth Convention Centre on Monday, 15 May.

Western Australia's domestic gas supply is coming under increasing scrutiny. Two major new LNG developments will soon be supplying gas for the local market, but production from existing onshore fields is declining and there are questions about the future of WA onshore exploration and development.

Australia's energy security is making headlines and is a key focus of APPEA 2017.

In the plenary sessions, industry executives will outline how the oil and gas sector can contribute and the role that governments must play. [See more about the Conference here](#)



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