

Victoria considers lifting gas moratorium

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The Victorian Government will consider lifting the moratorium on conventional gas exploration next year, according to reports.

The Age is reporting that from next month, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions will undertake a year-long operation to investigate the potential of gas reserves in two onshore basins in Victoria.

The department said the study “will identify land that may be suitable for release for exploration as well as any areas that may be withheld from exploration if the moratorium is lifted post June 2020”.

The basins included are located in the west of Victoria running to the South Australian border, with the other in the east across South Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley.

Escalating domestic wholesale gas prices have put pressure on customers along Australia’s east coast, particularly in the industrial and manufacturing sectors, with companies such as Remapak and Incitec Pivot struggling to stay afloat.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has consistently argued that the way to lower prices is to increase gas exploration and develop proved and probable reserves.

Wholesale gas prices reached \$10 per GJ on the Victorian spot market in the December quarter.

Energy users call on government to fix gas market

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The government must make solving the gas crisis a priority before it’s too late, according to the Energy Users Association of Australia (EUAA).

The EUAA, who represents many of the country’s largest gas users, has released the National Gas Strategy Discussion Paper that puts forward a range of policy and regulatory options in order to change current gas market conditions, which the group says will cause plant shutdowns and significant job losses.

“Whoever wins the upcoming federal election must make solving the gas crisis a priority before we run out of time and options,” said EUAA CEO Andrew Richards.

“It’s not too late to fix this, if we act quickly and decisively.”

The EUAA said a range of issues had caused gas prices to be 200 per cent higher than they were four years ago, including lack of genuine competition, state-based gas moratoriums and pipeline pricing issues.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has been warning for months that high domestic gas prices will cause local industry to shut down or move away from the east coast, while companies such as Remapak and Incitec Pivot have struggled to stay afloat. Read full article [here](#)

APPEA 2019 Conference and Exhibition

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The APPEA Conference & Exhibition will be held in Brisbane in 2019.

The Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association Ltd (APPEA) is the peak national body representing Australia’s upstream oil and gas exploration and production industry. The APPEA Conference & Exhibition has been running for more than 56 years and is widely recognised as the premier oil and gas event in the southern hemisphere.

Find the full details [here](#)



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