

Menzies Research “opinion piece” – Domestic Gas

Watercooler - The Menzies Research Centre 19 September 2020

Here’s one to keep up your sleeve for the next climate change quiz night. Which primary energy source has made the greatest contribution to the reduction of carbon emissions in the developed world?

The answer is gas. The transition from coal to natural gas was one of the main reasons why total emissions peaked in the 1970s in the largest European economies.

Technological advances that facilitated the large-scale extraction of gas from shale was the main reason why US carbon emissions fell by 13 per cent between 2005 and 2018.

Yet bizarrely, the green movement appears determined to remove natural gas from the palate of acceptable energy sources, just as it has tried to wipe out nuclear power and coal.

The Morrison government’s endorsement of gas as an essential part of our energy mix for the foreseeable future seems entirely uncontroversial to us.

Increasing the supply of domestic gas in the East Coast market is the single most important step towards regaining Australia’s competitive advantage of abundant, cheap energy.

In a competitive, lightly regulated energy market, that would have happened already, as it has in the United States. Here it will take a concerted effort to remove red and green tape and judicious government intervention in the market to stimulate competition.

The Menzies Research Centre has commissioned Dr Brian Fisher, the nation’s leading climate and energy economist, to produce a report on the supply of domestic gas. We will be publishing his findings shortly.

For the dangers of over-reliance on intermittent sources like wind and solar, we only have to look to California. It was once a state where people went to make their fortune. Today it’s a place from which people want to flee.

The same might be said of Victoria right now where the Labor government’s heavy lockdown measures are doing inestimable damage to the economy and the social fabric.

We congratulate former Victorian Treasury Department economist Sanjeev Sabhlok who took a principled stand this week, resigning in opposition to the Andrews government’s measures and failure to listen to the advice of his public servants.

Government incentives to build workplace skills during COVID-19

Ai Group

COVID-19 has been a disruptor, but it also presents opportunities for businesses to invest in the skills capital that may help deal with the worst of the crisis.

Governments around the country are recognising the important contribution that skills, education and training are going to provide as part of our economic recovery.

Ai Group has put together a list of grants, initiatives, and programs that could benefit your business, and put it in a stronger position as it emerges from the economic downturn.

Access the list of Grants by State [here](#)

Business insurance – Ai Group needs your help

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Insurance appears to be worrying a growing number of businesses. Ai Group staff have heard from multiple companies of different sizes, sectors and regions that are unable to secure insurance, or are facing some combination of steep premium increases and reductions in scope of coverage.

We are investigating the prevalence, causes and impacts of these problems, and if they are serious, we will bring them more firmly to the attention of government and the public.

Ai Group has developed a short Questionnaire for member feedback on these issues. The questions should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. Ai Group will not identify any individual companies in subsequent public statements or statements to government (unless you ask us to).

Please complete the Questionnaire (even if your business hasn't encountered problems with insurance - we'd like to know that too!) by COB Friday 2 October.

If you have further questions about this issue, or would like to discuss directly, please email Molly at molly.knox@aigroup.com.au.



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