



Australian Pipeline Industry Association Ltd

MEDIA RELEASE

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Gas industry congratulates Martin Ferguson on appointment as Energy Minister; welcomes Penny Wong as Climate Change Minister

Australia's gas transmission industry has congratulated Martin Ferguson on his appointment as Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism.

"Mr Ferguson knows and understands Australia's energy industries, particularly gas transmission," Cheryl Cartwright, Chief Executive of the Australian Pipeline Industry Association, said today.

"As we head into the critical phase of the new National Gas Law, we are pleased to be working with a Minister who has a genuine interest in the energy industries and an understanding of energy business," Ms Cartwright said.

With the natural gas industry's focus on its contribution to the energy mix in a carbon constrained future, Ms Cartwright also welcomed Senator Penny Wong as Minister for Climate Change and Water.

"During the election campaign, the Labor Party highlighted the role that natural gas will play as Australia makes the necessary changes in order to meet the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and APIA welcomed that announcement," Ms Cartwright said. "We look forward to working with Senator Wong in her new role."

Ms Cartwright also welcomed the other new Ministers who will have a focus on Australia's natural gas industry.

"We look forward to discussing with Minister Peter Garrett the industry's commitment to environment and heritage management during the construction and operation of the nation's natural gas infrastructure," she said. "The industry's Code of Environmental Practice is recognised in all states, leading to high standards for vegetation management, liaison with landowners, farmers and indigenous communities as well as management of waterways and other environmental resources.

"We also look forward to discussing with the new Infrastructure Minister, Mr Albanese, the benefits of gas transmission infrastructure - often out of sight and out of mind - but highly functional, privately funded and critical to the nation.

"Also, the research and development support provided by AusIndustry remains critical to the gas transmission industry - as well as the national health and safety, so we look forward to working with the new Minister for Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr."

Ms Cartwright said Prime Minister-elect, Mr Kevin Rudd, had ensured the important natural gas industry was "well covered" in the new Ministry.

The Australian natural gas transmission industry directly employs more than 4,000 workers, not including Australians employed in the construction and service industries associated with gas transmission.

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