



MEDIA RELEASE

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REGULATORY EXEMPTION A GOOD FIRST STEP: APIA

The Australian Pipeline Industry Association has welcomed the Federal Government's efforts to reduce the impact of regulation on some aspects of Australia's future gas pipeline infrastructure.

Australian Pipeline Industry Association Chief Executive, Ms Cheryl Cartwright, said the possibility of a 15-year regulation-free period for specific gas pipelines was a step towards encouraging investment in gas transmission pipelines.

"The legislation introduced into Parliament today is a small part of the Federal Government's response to the Productivity Commission review on the broader issue of gas market regulation.

"The full legislative response has been delayed and will be released for industry comment in late July – which gives stakeholders very little time for review and comment. We are in danger of forcing through poor policy in order to meet a deadline.

"It must also be remembered that gas transmission infrastructure is not government funded – it is private sector investment and that investment is made over a very long term. In this regard, APIA would have liked to have seen the proposed regulation-free period extended to at least 20 years.

"Today's legislation is a step towards demonstration by the Government that it appreciates the need for certainty in order to encourage investment in gas transmission infrastructure," Ms Cartwright said.

Media contacts:

Ms Cheryl Cartwright
APIA Chief Executive
Mob: 0419 996 066

Mr Peter Gill
Field Public Relations
Mob: 0417 784 059