



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wednesday 7 June 2006**

### **FLAWED STUDY WILL NOT PRODUCE BEST ENERGY MIX, SAYS GAS INDUSTRY**

The Federal Government's review of the long term potential of nuclear energy is flawed because it ignores the immediate economic and environmental gains from increased use of natural gas, according to the Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA).

The Chief Executive of the gas industry representative group, Ms Cheryl Cartwright, said natural gas is cheaper than nuclear fuel and cleaner than coal.

"And it's available now," she said today.

"It is regrettable that the Prime Minister's review does not consider other fuels. If it did so, the economic and environmental benefits of natural gas would be readily apparent, and would demonstrate that natural gas is the 'transitional' fuel to the next phase of electricity generation.

"The Prime Minister has said quite clearly that he believes Australians will turn to nuclear energy in the 'longer term', which leaves the obvious question about the short to medium term.

"If Australians and Australian businesses want to reduce greenhouse emissions while they wait for renewable energy sources to become cost-efficient and reliable, then they should turn from coal to our abundant supplies of natural gas.

"Whatever the reason for the PM's review of uranium mining, processing and nuclear energy, and even if further uranium mining is recommended, any move towards the use of nuclear for energy generation is some years away.

"In the meantime, Australia has the choice of continuing to use greenhouse-unfriendly coal or increase the use of greenhouse-friendlier natural gas for energy generation.

"In the longer term, renewable energies could become more cost-efficient or nuclear power for energy generation could become more acceptable. Nuclear and renewables are energy options over which many questions remain.

"There are no such doubts over gas. We know it is the fuel that can give us a cleaner energy future," she said.

#### **Media contacts:**

**Cheryl Cartwright**  
**APIA Chief Executive**  
**Mob: 0419 996 066**

**Peter Gill**  
**Field Public Relations**  
**Mob: 0417 784 059**