



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 26 June 2006

GOVERNMENT SHOULD AIM FOR BEST LEGISLATIVE

OUTCOME TO BOOST GREENHOUSE POTENTIAL OF GAS

A secure energy future which makes the maximum contribution towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions could be undermined by the current approach being taken to legislative changes, gas industry representative, Ms Cheryl Cartwright, told the Australian Energy & Utility Summit 2006 in Sydney today.

The Chief Executive of the Australian Pipeline Industry Association warned that investment in long distance gas transmission infrastructure was in danger of being discouraged because legislation is being drafted without adequate consultation.

“In order to provide energy security the Australian Government must encourage investment in long distance gas transmission pipelines but, in an effort to streamline the process, ministers have tended to introduce changes to the gas sector legislation that undermines these important and strategic business goals,” Ms Cartwright said.

“With the current debate about renewable energy and the Prime Minister’s review of nuclear fuel possibilities underway, now is the time to be encouraging investment in the production and transmission of natural gas. Natural gas is the sensible ‘transition’ fuel which is more greenhouse friendly than coal but less expensive than renewable energy.

“As Australia moves towards more renewable energy in the future, natural gas remains a far less expensive fuel than current renewables and ‘clean coal’.

“Federal and State ministers must also be careful to ensure that their claimed objective of imposing only ‘light handed’ regulation on the gas industry is achieved because the detail of their policies can create more intrusiveness for business.

“It is time for the Australian Government to make strong decisions and enshrine a light handed approach in legislation. All energy ministers must take a firm stand and direct their official and regulatory agencies towards less intrusive regulation for the energy industries.

“This is an important opportunity for the Australian Government to get regulation right in this critical industry, avoid further disadvantage to the gas transmission industry and achieve the investment in infrastructure needed for a secure energy future in which greenhouse gas emissions are lowered.”

Media contacts:

Cheryl Cartwright
APIA Chief Executive
Mob: 0419 996 066

Peter Gill
Field Public Relations
Mob: 0417 784 059