



# Australian Pipeline Industry Association Inc.

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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## **GAS PIPELINE INDUSTRY WELCOMES INFRASTRUCTURE TASKFORCE REPORT**

The report on Australia's Export Infrastructure by the Prime Minister's Infrastructure Taskforce provides strong endorsement of the gas transmission industry's call for "light-handed" regulation, the Chief Executive of the Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA), Cheryl Cartwright, said today.

"The Prime Minister's taskforce has provided clear support of the Productivity Commission's recommendations on the Gas Access Regime, including that, where regulation is warranted, it should be 'light-handed'," Ms Cartwright said.

"The Taskforce says that more intrusive regulation should only be used where 'light-handed' regulation has failed and it has also endorsed the need for regulators to consider reasonable commercial outcomes when making decisions."

APIA has maintained that the current regulatory regime imposed on the gas transmission industry discourages long-term infrastructure investment and has called on the nation's Energy Ministers to support the PC recommendations.

"Our industry wants to be able to plan for future capacity and the Prime Minister's Taskforce recommendations, if extended to the gas transmission industry, would certainly help to address current concerns," Ms Cartwright said.

"We also welcome the strong support for merits review of regulator decisions and also the recommendation for a more streamlined process.

"I now encourage the Ministerial Council on Energy to fully support the PC recommendations in its response due in September 2005."

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