



MEDIA RELEASE

4 November 2005

ENERGY MINISTERS URGED TO GET REGULATORY DECISION RIGHT

State and Federal energy ministers should use the extra time now available to them to carefully consider gas transmission issues and make the decisions that will encourage future infrastructure investment, Australian Pipeline Industry Association Chief Executive, Ms Cheryl Cartwright, said today.

“No decision is better than a poor decision,” Ms Cartwright said, after the Ministerial Council on Energy wound up without making its final decision on the Productivity Commission’s report on Australia’s gas access regime.

“APIA now urges Ministers to fully focus on gas transmission issues so they can make the right decision, encouraging investment in infrastructure and meeting the long-term interests of the nation’s energy industry.

“Ministers should support the recommendations of the Productivity Commission which, although a compromise for industry, provide a package of measures that will help to provide some certainty for infrastructure investors,” she said.

Ms Cartwright re-iterated her warning that, when Ministers do again consider new rules for the pipeline industry, they should avoid introducing light-handed regulation that could contain more onerous requirements than the current, heavier-handed approach.

“Infrastructure investment is high on the political radar at the moment. Even Treasurer Costello has said recently, and I quote: ‘Inappropriate Government intervention and regulation can damage investment’.

“Mr Costello also complained about complex regulations.”

Media contacts:

Cheryl Cartwright
APIA’s Chief Executive
Mob: 0419 996 066

Peter Gill
Field Public Relations
Mob: 0417 784 059