



MEDIA RELEASE

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NUCLEAR DEBATE IGNORES THE SENSIBLE ALTERNATIVE - NATURAL GAS

Australia should focus on the benefits of its natural gas resources rather than arguing the case between coal and nuclear energy, according to the nation's peak gas transmission body, the Australian Pipeline Industry Association.

"Natural gas is cleaner and cheaper than coal or nuclear energy, and it is in plentiful supply," APIA Chief Executive Cheryl Cartwright said today.

"Gas burns with about 60 per cent fewer greenhouse emissions than coal and doesn't have the waste and security issues that are associated with uranium and nuclear power generation," Ms Cartwright said.

"Gas-fired power can be seen as a 'transitional' fuel in the long-term move towards more sustainable and environmentally benign energy sources. Until renewable energy sources become more widely available, more competitively priced and more constant as a source of supply, gas remains the cleanest, most energy efficient and most reliable source of power generation for our nation.

"Gas-fired power generation already is an important component in the power generation mix and currently supplements coal-fired generation. This means that the skills and resources exist to quickly and cheaply expand gas-fired generation. Gas can produce 'instant heat' for peaking and is used in both small- and large-scale energy generation.

"In order to transport more of Australia's plentiful supplies of natural gas to power generators it really is up to government to remove the regulatory restrictions currently endemic in natural gas infrastructure.

"Australia doesn't need to rely on highly polluting fuels when it has its own abundant supply of natural gas," Ms Cartwright said.

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