



# Australian Pipeline Industry Association Ltd

## Media Release

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### GAS TRANSMISSION INDUSTRY WELCOMES CALL FOR CLEAR POLICY DIRECTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES

Australia's gas transmission industry has welcomed the call for a coordinated taskforce to further examine carbon capture and storage technology, but says such a taskforce must consult all affected industry sectors.

Commenting on a proposal for a national taskforce to examine CCS technology, the Australian Pipeline Industry Association's Chief Executive, Cheryl Cartwright, also warned that government input should be restricted to research and development, particularly with reference to transportation of CO<sub>2</sub>, and not expand into infrastructure investment.

Ms Cartwright was commenting on a call by the Australia Coal Association, the Construction Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, the Climate Institute and WWF Australia for the Federal Government to establish a taskforce to examine CCS technology.

"The gas transmission industry agrees that a coordinated approach to tackling climate change is to be welcomed, rather than having a range of State-based schemes but broad industry input is vital," Ms Cartwright said.

"It is certainly true that further work needs to be undertaken on the development of CCS technology," she said. "And it's quite possible that such technology could be extended to the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from gas-fired power generation."

However, the amount of environmental benefit that CCS provides for gas-fired power generation would depend upon the price of emissions, given the emissions from gas-fired power generation are far lower than emissions from coal-fired power generation.

"As well as looking at capture and storage, such a taskforce should also examine research and development of the transportation of CO<sub>2</sub> gases as this provides new challenges for the pipeline industry," Ms Cartwright said.

"While the industry is already examining the technical challenges of transporting CO<sub>2</sub>, a stronger focus through a Government taskforce would help to ensure that the transportation system will be available when it is required.

"But any government assistance should be restricted to the research and development challenges of climate change - as well as compensation for disadvantages that industry will face with the introduction of a renewable energy target and an emissions trading scheme. It is important that economic efficiency is not left out of the debate.

"With appropriate support of R&D, the Government does not need to be involved in the infrastructure investment or other commercial aspects of power generation or the transportation and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The private sector stands ready to make such investment when the Government provides the appropriate policy and economic signals."

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