



# Australian Pipeline Industry Association Ltd

*Media Release*

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## **Natural gas will reduce carbon emissions and create jobs – without government funding.**

Australia's natural gas industry has welcomed a report by the Clean Energy Council highlighting the benefits of renewable energy – but warns renewable energy sources should not be developed at the expense of natural gas.

“Australia has an abundant supply of natural gas and it is the ‘natural’ alternative to current sources of carbon intensive baseload energy generation,” Chief Executive of the Australian Pipeline Industry Association, Cheryl Cartwright, said today.

“Gas has less than half the emissions of coal-fired power generation and the technology is available now,” Ms Cartwright said.

“While the Federal Government is investing more than \$2 billion in renewable energy, natural gas – without government funding – is ready now to step up and help to ensure Australia's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

“Without financial intervention by the Federal Government, the private sector stands ready to expand natural gas infrastructure and meet the nation's demand for this, the cleanest fossil fuel, thus generating new jobs in a new power generation environment.

“While the Clean Energy Council expects that 50 per cent of energy might be derived from renewable sources in 2050, this is impossible without back-up power from natural gas.

“The natural gas industry – particularly the transmission industry – needs government to step aside and let the private sector make the investments required to meet this expected increase in demand and increase in jobs.”

Ms Cartwright said renewable energy is the fuel source of the future, but this can be achieved with an appropriate price on emissions.

“A Renewable Energy Target distorts the market price of emissions and misdirects investment funds away from the best source of lower emission energy – natural gas.”

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