



Australian Pipeline Industry Association Ltd

MEDIA RELEASE

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APIA calls on CoAG to focus on Natural Gas as part of the solution for greenhouse emissions

The Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA) today called on CoAG, in its discussions tomorrow on climate change, to ensure a focus on natural gas as one of the solutions to greenhouse gas emissions in the medium term.

APIA, which represents the nation's gas transmission industry, said it was encouraged by the Rudd Government's recent acknowledgement of the economic and environmental benefits of natural gas as a transition fuel for the future.

"CoAG provides the Rudd Government with a genuine opportunity to reinforce its position on natural gas and not disadvantage the gas industry by introducing unrealistic renewable energy targets," APIA Chief Executive, Cheryl Cartwright, said today.

"Natural Gas is the ideal transition fuel for electricity generation to achieve emissions targets sooner rather than later," Ms Cartwright said.

"In electricity generation, combined gas cycle turbine technology has approximately half the greenhouse emissions of coal and uses approximately half the water used by coal-fired turbines," she said.

"In addition, gas-fired plants are significantly cheaper to build with a shorter construction period. The technology is tested and is available now.

"Significantly, Australia's gas industry is very efficient both in terms of power generation and in gas transmission and this reduces the environmental impact of fossil fuels. It is important that policy environment does not reduce efficient investment decisions, in the way that Mandatory Renewable Energy Targets may do."

Ms Cartwright said natural gas needed to be encouraged as part of the suite of technologies included in any clean energy style scheme to allow industry to balance cost and emissions.

"As the nation focusses on reducing carbon emissions, the infrastructure that transports the natural gas should be part of the planning," she said.

"Gas pipelines are privately owned and do not rely on government funding for construction or expansion, however, appropriate economic policies need to be in place in order to encourage investment in this important infrastructure."

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