



# Australian Pipeline Industry Association Ltd

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Professor Valerie Linton to head Australia's inaugural energy pipelines research centre**

Research into the transmission of natural gas in Australia received a boost today with the appointment of Professor Valerie Linton as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the Energy Pipelines Cooperative Research Centre.

The Energy Pipelines CRC (EPCRC) was announced by Industry Minister, Senator Kim Carr, in the latest round of Cooperative Research Centre appointments and will provide research fundamental to ensuring the nation's energy future.

Announcing the CEO appointment, the EPCRC's Board said Professor Linton - currently Professor of Welded Structures at the University of Adelaide - has been active on the international stage in high pressure energy transmission throughout her 20-year career both in industry and academia.

Her experience covers research, development, standards and management in topics ranging from ground breaking research in materials and welding for transmission pipelines to pipeline integrity and failure.

There is an increased focus on natural gas as the nation moves to reduce carbon emissions, thus encouraging demand for gas, which has less than half the greenhouse gas emissions of coal when used in power generation. Transportation of natural gas is critical to support of the increased demand.

Professor Linton's experience provides a strong foundation for energy pipelines research and her management skills will guide the EPCRC's progress as it works on research programs spanning the full life cycle of existing and future pipelines in the areas of materials, coatings, design and policy.

The integration of research across these areas, combined with an education program and a close partnership with industry will see the rapid uptake of new technology and thinking into the pipeline industry.

Professor Linton, who will be based in Wollongong to take up the role, said today she was very much looking forward to the new challenge.

"Research into the best possible energy transportation for Australia is vital, given this nation's distances and the expected increase in demand for natural gas as an alternative to coal for power generation," Professor Linton said.

"In order to safely, effectively, and efficiently transport natural gas, Australia will need to expand the use of current transmission pipelines as well as build new infrastructure over very long distances.

"Our research will also have application well beyond energy transmission. For example, our long-distance pipeline research will also be critical to the success of carbon capture, transportation and storage projects."

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Professor Linton is very aware of Australia's issues in needing to move natural gas and other energy over long distances.

"Having been educated and working in the UK in the early part of my career, the contrast with this country's vastness highlights the challenges in pipeline engineering in Australia," she said.

"I look forward to bringing my skills to the EPCRC and leading its contribution to this important area."

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