



# Australian Pipeline Industry Association Ltd

*Media Release*

10<sup>th</sup> September 2010

## Darwin focus for national pipeline industry

The peak body representing the nation's gas transmission industry - the Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA) - has returned to Darwin to hold its annual conference and exhibition which starts on Sunday.

Reflecting APIA's growth - and the dramatic expansion in the LNG and coal seam gas industries - some 600 pipeline industry people are in Darwin for the annual conference and exhibition.

This is a significant increase on the 360 people who attended the annual APIA event in 2003, the last occasion it was held in Darwin. Also, since 2003, the association has introduced an annual dinner to its Darwin activities.

There will also be 80 displays in the accompanying APIA Conference Exhibition, which is open to the public at the Darwin Convention Centre.

Key speakers at the 2010 APIA conference include: -

- ◆ Hon Paul Henderson, NT's Chief Minister, who will deliver the opening address on Monday morning
- ◆ APIA President, Peter Cox, who also WorleyParsons' National Pipelines Manager (ANZ Region).
- ◆ Cheryl Cartwright, Chief Executive of the Australian Pipeline Industry Association
- ◆ Professor Valerie Linton, CEO, Energy Pipelines Co-operative Research Centre.

The theme for the 2010 APIA Conference is: *Australia's Pipeline Industry - Local Expertise; International Influence.*

Ms Cheryl Cartwright, Chief Executive of APIA, said the Darwin conference and exhibition was being held at a critical time in the industry.

"In the past decade, we have seen some \$5 billion invested in the necessary pipelines infrastructure for the Australian gas transmission industry," Ms Cartwright said.

"In the next decade, this could balloon to more than \$10 billion, especially with the continued dramatic development of Queensland's coal seam gas (CSG) industry," she said.

"That also means additional jobs and the need to ensure we continue with our valuable research into safe and efficient transportation in line with such booming gas industry expansion."

Registered Office of:  
Australian Pipeline Industry Association Limited, Level 1, 7 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600.  
**Mailing Address: PO Box 5416, Kingston ACT 2604**  
Telephone: (02) 6273 0577 Facsimile: (02) 6273 0588 Email: [apia@apia.asn.au](mailto:apia@apia.asn.au)  
ABN: 29 098 754 324 ACN: 098 754 324

# Australian Pipeline Industry Association Ltd

Ms Cartwright said the Darwin conference would provide delegates with relevant, up-to-date information about projects and international issues, address technical, environmental and economic challenges, and look at new developments in the industry.

“The Bonaparte Gas Pipeline is a great local example of the kind of pipeline projects happening across Australia. It is particularly interesting to the industry as it sets a new benchmark for dealing with land access and rehabilitation issues in a unique, environmentally sensitive region,” she said

“We will also continue with APIA’s focus on raising the profile of natural gas as the sensible fuel in a carbon constrained future.

“We all recognise that Australia must develop renewable technology, but we stress that emissions can be reduced sooner rather than later if there is more encouragement to use natural gas for power generation.

“Natural gas is often described as the ‘transition fuel’ as Australia moves to a low-emissions economy, but gas will be required well into the future as a back-up fuel for renewable energy.

“In fact, if the \$10 billion currently committed to renewable energy and CCS development was committed to building new gas-fired power generation, Australia would reduce carbon emissions by up to 8 per cent. And if the funds were directed towards transferring from coal-fired power generation to natural gas, the cuts in emissions would be greater.

“As well as providing emissions reduction in the short term, this investment in natural gas would continue to be beneficial for decades as a complement to renewable energy.”

Ms Cartwright said that while the gas industry agreed that there should be investment in renewable energy technology, it was imperative to the future of the nation that such investment should not be undertaken to the detriment of natural gas.

“Australia has about 300 years’ supply of natural gas. It’s the cleanest burning fossil fuel and it will support renewable energy supplies into the future,” she said.

“A Renewable Energy Target of 20 per cent will certainly assist the renewable energy industries, but there is a danger that the cost of meeting this target will slow the change from coal to gas by power generators.

“It’s critical to ensure that the natural gas industry is encouraged to invest in the required infrastructure so that, in the longer term, natural gas will provide base-load power in support of renewable energies and Australia will meet its emissions targets.”

**MEDIA CONTACTS: Cheryl Cartwright**  
Chief Executive, APIA  
0419/996066

**John Field**  
Field Public Relations  
0418/819527

Registered Office of:  
Australian Pipeline Industry Association Limited, Level 1, 7 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600.  
**Mailing Address: PO Box 5416, Kingston ACT 2604**  
Telephone: (02) 6273 0577 Facsimile: (02) 6273 0588 Email: [apia@apia.asn.au](mailto:apia@apia.asn.au)  
ABN: 29 098 754 324 ACN: 098 754 324