



# Australian Pipeline Industry Association Ltd

*Media Release*

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## Pipeline industry set for new multi-billion dollar Australian developments

Australia's pipeline industry is on the cusp of a multi-billion dollar expansion of the nation's gas transmission infrastructure, with the burgeoning development of coal seam gas and LNG projects.

The construction of the high-pressure gas transmission pipelines associated with Queensland's massive coal seam gas projects will provide the main impetus for increased pipeline industry activity, according to the Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA).

"Over the next decade, we are looking at a possible \$10 billion being spent on high-pressure gas pipelines infrastructure, especially with the continued dramatic development of Queensland's coal seam gas (CSG) industry," APIA's Chief Executive, Ms Cheryl Cartwright, said today.

"That also means additional jobs and the need to ensure we continue with our valuable research into safe and efficient transport of the country's vast gas resources," she said.

Speaking in Darwin at the start of APIA's annual convention and exhibition, Ms Cartwright said the pipeline industry was ready for the challenge of providing the infrastructure required to support the development of CSG in Queensland.

"It is important for Australia that this CSG industry growth is not delayed, and our industry is keen to work with governments - State and Federal - to ensure progress of such CSG development," she said.

"Australia has the equivalent of some 250 years worth of natural gas resources in Queensland alone, and we should not miss this opportunity to develop these reserves, as all nations move away from coal-fired power generation."

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 alternative fuel in a carbon constrained future.

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“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.

“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 is 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.”

## Massive Growth

Ms Cartwright said the gas industry was predicted to undergo massive growth in the next 20 years, driven by the rise in gas-fired power generation in response to climate change issues and the development of an LNG industry based on CSG reserves.

“The pipeline industry will be required to meet this demand and a growing demand for quality water infrastructure, as demonstrated through the development of desalination plants and the replacement of open irrigation channels with pipes,” she said.

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. There are also 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 Kon Vatskalis, NT’s Chief Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries & Resources, who will deliver the opening address on Monday morning
- ◆ APIA President, Peter Cox, who is 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.

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